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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 161

TUESDAY JULY 7, 2009

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of July 6, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

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Judge: No new Rydlyme trial

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court yesterday denied the request for a new trial for former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, James A. Santos and Joaquina V. Santos in the Rydlyme corruption case. In a separate ruling, the federal court also denied a motion to acquit the three despite their earlier convictions.

See **JUDGE** on Page 4



Villagomez

Guerrero paid \$1,025 for genealogical services

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Herman T. Guerrero received three checks in the total amount of \$1,025 from Joaquina Villagomez Santos for genealogical services that were used by the defense lawyers to prove the relationship between some jurors and witnesses in the Rydlyme case.

According to documents filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, the law offices of Ramon Quichocho, counsel for Joaquina Santos, issued Bank of Guam checks in the amount of \$400 and \$300 on May 4, 2009, and another Bank of Guam check in



Guerrero

the amount of \$325 on May 19, 2009.

The checks were made payable to Guerrero for genealogical services.

Quichocho stated in court papers that he submitted the notice about the

payments in response to U.S. See **GUERRERO** on Page 4



FLOAT COMMITTEE

Liberation Day Planning Committee vice chair Isodoro T. Cabrera, third from right, presents a check worth \$500 to acting Northern Marianas College president Tee Abraham, fifth from right, Dean of Community Programs & Services, for placing second in this year's Liberation Day Parade float competition. Also in photo are NMC students and staff who helped design and construct the college's float.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Food stamp program gets \$1.5M more funds

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Funding for the CNMI's food stamp program slightly increased this fiscal year, according to the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, which runs the program.

See **FOOD STAMP** on Page 4

'No place for political appointees on board'

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Stanley Torres wants to include a member of the Commonwealth Association of Retired People on the Retirement Fund's board of trustees, but board chair Juan T. Guerrero said political appointees without financial and investment background should not become trustees.

"This is one of the reforms we've been asking, that Fund trustees who are there only because of political appointment and without qualifications like finance or investment background should not be allowed to serve," Guerrero told Saipan Tribune.

See full story on Page 2



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Local

'No place for political appointees on Fund board'

Bill wants to increase trustees to 8; Fitial insists on 'mediation'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan) wants the number of NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees increased from seven to eight to include a member of the Commonwealth Association of Retired People, but Fund board chair Juan T. Guerrero separately said political appointees without financial and investment background should not become trustees.

"This is one of the reforms we've been asking, that Fund trustees who are there only because of political appointment and without qualifications like finance or investment background should not be allowed to serve," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He said Torres' bill would not be able to "balance" the number of political

appointees and those appointed by retirees, who decide on Fund matters.

"The governor should solicit from the retirees association, the same way he solicits from the Bar Association on the appointment of judges and justices," Guerrero said.

But Torres said increasing the number of trustees will "fully and fairly" represent

retirees in all board decisions related to the Fund.

Under Torres' House Bill 16-254, the seven trustees should be appointed by the governor, and one by the Commonwealth Association of Retired People—all with the advice and consent of the Senate.

"The board shall select a chairman by a majority vote. Members shall serve for a term of four years. Trustees of the Fund prior to the effective date of this Act shall continue to

serve the remainder of their previous term," said Torres.

Vacancies, he added, shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

'Moving on'

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, meanwhile, said "mediation" is still the best way to deal with the Fund case.

"It's positive for us. I don't think we should continue to fight over the Retirement fiasco. I think we should get together and seek solutions. I already told the Fund board, 'The solution is mediation because it is sustainable,'" Fitial said in an interview.

But Guerrero said the issue has passed the mediation stage and should now be focused on the "negotiation stage" to seek ways on how the government will be able to pay the pension system.

"We should be moving on now. We will sit down and work with the government on a payment plan," said Guerrero.

In today's board meeting, the Fund will name members to the negotiation committee,

who will be concurred by the board of trustees.

Press secretary Charles Reyes and Guerrero separately said communication on dealing with the court ruling has started among staff members, but there has been no scheduled meeting between Fitial and the board.

Both Guerrero, the current chairman of the Fund board, and Fitial, are running in the November gubernatorial elections.

On June 29, Superior Court Judge Kenneth Govendo ruled that the CNMI government owes the Fund \$231.6 million in unpaid employer contributions and damages.

Govendo ordered the Finance Secretary to pay the Fund an employer contribution rate of 16 percent beginning with the pay period ending Aug. 14, 2009. The judge also directed Finance to pay the Fund 30 percent of hotel occupancy taxes and 20 percent of alcohol container taxes beginning on Aug. 1, 2009.

The administration says it is still reviewing the impact of the court ruling on government resources.

First confirmed case of swine flu virus in Palau

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The World Health Organization confirmed last weekend the first case of influenza A(H1N1) flu in Palau. This follows the first confirmed case of the virus in Guam a day earlier.

There were no immediate details of the Palau case.

The breakdown of the number of laboratory-confirmed cases can be found at the WHO website: www.who.int/en.

Latest data showed a total of 89,921 cases that tested positive for the virus, including 382 deaths worldwide. These included the 12,720 new cases reported in the past three days alone.

As of July 2, the total confirmed cases reported by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention in the United States was 33,902, including 170 deaths.

There were 6,185 new confirmed cases in the U.S. in the past three days.

WHO data also showed 1,582 new cases, including three deaths in Mexico, where the flu was first discovered. This brings the total number of confirmed cases of the virus in Mexico to 10,262.

The Department of Public Health yesterday assured there is no confirmed case of the influenza A(H1N1) flu in the CNMI.

DPH issued the follow-

ing everyday Flu W.A.T.C.H. steps to protect your health and lessen the spread of both the seasonal flu as well as the H1N1 flu virus:

■ **WASH YOUR HANDS** often with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after you cough or sneeze. Hand sanitizers are also effective.

■ **AVOID SICK PEOPLE and AVOID TOUCHING YOUR EYES, NOSE, AND MOUTH.** Germs spread this way.

■ **TEACH** others how to prevent the flu

■ **COVER YOUR COUGH OR SNEEZE.** Use a tissue or your sleeve not your hands! Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it and wash your hands.

■ **HAVE** an emergency plan ready and keep a two week supply of food and emergency supplies and medicine at home.

Do not go to school or work if you are sick, particularly if you have a fever and cough.

Contact your doctor if you have flu-like symptoms.

If you are sick, CDC recommends that you:

■ Stay home for 7 days after your symptoms begin or until you have been symptom-free for 24 hours, whichever is longer. This is to keep from spreading the virus to other people.

■ Stay informed. This is an evolving situation and health officials will provide additional information as it becomes available.

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Fitial to attend Micronesian chiefs' summit in Majuro

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will be leaving next week for the 11th Western Micronesian Chief Executives Summit in Majuro in the Marshall Islands where he will raise the issue of alleged mistreatment of CNMI and other Micronesia travelers at the Guam international airport, among other things.

The summit will be from July 13 to 17.

Accompanying Fitial will be Commerce Secretary Michael Ada, who will be making a presentation, as well as special assistant for administration Esther Fleming, press secretary Charles Reyes said yesterday.

Fitial said the mistreatment of CNMI travelers, as well as those from the Freely Associated States of Palau, the Marshall Islands, Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae,

at the Guam airport by federal personnel should stop. He said the seriousness of the concerns by travelers reaching his office prompts raising the issue with other Micronesian leaders.

The summit will bring to Majuro the governors and heads of state from the CNMI, Guam, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

When Fitial leaves, Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos will be the acting governor, his second time since he was sworn into office. The first one was when the governor testified in May before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife in Washington, D.C. on the implementation of Public Law 110-229 or the federalization law.

Fitial's off-island trip was raised at yesterday's weekly Cabinet meeting, where the Department of Public Health provided an update on the H1N1

case in Guam and outlined an isolation plan.

The CNMI is one of the only few Pacific islands without a confirmed case of H1N1. "No case reported on Saipan," said Reyes yesterday.

The governor also reported

on his meeting with Rep. David Price (D-NC), chairman of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Homeland Security Appropriations and four other congressmen who spent a night on Saipan on Saturday for refueling, on their way back to Wash-

ington, D.C. after visits to Asian countries last week. Fitial and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce asked for the inclusion of Chinese and Russian tourists in the visa waiver program.

Reyes said the Marianas Visitors Authority reported an additional 12,000 seats due to charter flights and resumption of flights, requiring adequate immigration

and customs personnel at the Saipan International Airport.

Other issues discussed at the Cabinet meeting were the Department of Public Lands' meeting with Korean investors, Commerce update on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant funds, and the Saipan Agricultural Fair's awards banquet to-night at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

Hopwood, MHS to get large chunk of ARRA repair funds

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two of the largest campuses in the Public School System will get the largest share of the fiscal stabilization money, which, among other purposes, provides funding for school repairs and maintenance.

Under the Public School System's funding request, the \$4.1 million allocated for repairs will be divided among all 20 campuses to address the decade-old problem of inadequate facilities. The money is PSS' share of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds.

Hopwood Junior High School, which has an enrollment of over a thousand each year, stands to receive \$528,622 to fix both minor and major damage in buildings A through E. The planned improvements range from replacing roof trusses to fixing doorknobs and window frames.

Marianas High School, the oldest campus on the island, was appropriated \$359,515 to repair buildings A, D, E, M, F, and T. Major overhauls will focus on roofs, ceilings, and covered walkways.

Garapan Elementary is the third largest recipient of the funds, with \$285,173 for nine major repairs on its campus.

Other schools are allocated the following amounts:

- San Vicente Elementary, \$251,502;
- Koblerville Elementary, \$221,079;
- Tanapag Elementary, \$218,984;
- Kagman Elementary, \$217,960;
- Oleai Elementary, \$207,868;
- William S. Reyes, \$230,027;
- Saipan Southern High, \$195,870;
- San Antonio Elementary, \$188,236;

- Kagman High School, \$180,290;
- Rota High, \$190,832;
- Rota Jr. High, \$187,600;
- Chacha Oceanview, \$163,500;
- Sinapalo Elementary, \$138,870;
- Tinian High School, \$132,408;
- Tinian Elementary, \$117,072; and
- Dandan Elementary, \$99,380.

Of the \$32.2 million PSS will receive from the ARRA fund, a total of \$12 million will be used to modernize, repair, and renovate facilities that are used for classroom instruction in all 20 schools.

Of this \$12 million, \$4.3 million is for general repair and maintenance while \$2.8 million is for air-conditioning units' replacement and upgrade.

To ensure that these new ACs will last, PSS wants them to be regularly maintained, at a cost of \$165,000.

PSS also intends to use \$3.3 million for a roof coating upgrade and \$1 million for roof replacement and insulation.

PSS will use some \$140,000 for major electrical upgrades in the following schools: Hopwood, SSHS, DES, KHS, and Chacha Oceanview.



'206 jobs created'

The general repair and maintenance of facilities is expected to create 76 jobs. The approved \$2.8 million for AC replacement and upgrade will also create 49 jobs. Three jobs will also be created by the two-year maintenance contract for these units.

The roof coating upgrade will allow 58 to work with PSS while a workforce of 19 will be needed for the roof replacement and insulation projects.

Additionally, two jobs will be created by the electrical upgrades.

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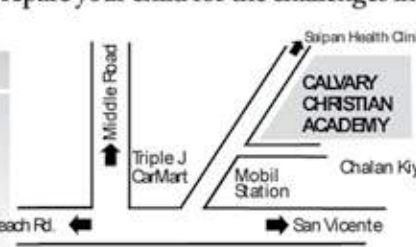



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IN MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS

Lenders have longer time to redeem properties

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Families and businesses now have at least two years to negotiate an agreement to cure a default in mortgage foreclosure proceedings.

Sixty days had already lapsed since Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel Demapan proposed that docket rule be applied to foreclosure proceedings on April 27.

Pursuant to Article IV, section 9(A) of the CNMI Constitution, these proposed rules shall become effective 60 days from their submission to the Legislature, unless disapproved by a majority of either house of the Legislature.

At the same time, the House Judiciary and Government Operations

Committee chaired by Rep. Rosemond B. Santos (R-Saipan) recommended the adoption of its standing committee report on the judiciary's "Proposed addition to the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure – Dormant Docket for Mortgage Foreclosure Proceedings."

Under the proposal, a plaintiff may request by motion to the court that a foreclosure action be moved from the active docket to the mortgage foreclosure dormant docket, where it may remain for up to 24 months.

At any time while the action is on the mortgage foreclosure dormant docket, any party may request that the action be moved back to the active docket.

If any action has been pending on the mortgage foreclosure dormant

docket for 25 months, the court shall dismiss the action without further notice and without prejudice, unless prior to the dismissal a party seeks to extend the 24-month period for good cause shown.

This rule expires five years from the date it becomes effective, unless extended, or sooner if rescinded.

The House committee said the proposed addition of Rule 73 into the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure will address foreclosure issues by providing ample time to parties of a foreclosure action to negotiate an agreement to cure an alleged default.

"Because of the increase of foreclosure actions being brought to court, it is necessary to provide leeway to parties of a foreclosure action to ne-

gotiate an agreement through the proposed mortgage foreclosure dormant docket," Standing Committee Report 16-95 said.

FOOD STAMP

From Page 1

From the previous \$10 million level, the CNMI is now getting \$11.5 million to run the Nutrition Assistance Program, said acting DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao yesterday.

He said the 13.7 percent increase is still counted for program year 2009.

When asked about the purpose and condition of the increased funding, Faisao said this is intended to increase the amount being given to food stamp clients.

The added funds would also provide retroactive payments to qualified individuals who received their April, May, and June share.

There are nearly 3,000 households and over 7,000 household members receiving food stamp benefits on all three islands.

Faisao said in May 2009, DCCA recorded a total of 2,733 household cases and 7,848 household members being served by the program.

Because of the ongoing economic instability, the agency expects an increase in the number of clients in coming years.

From October 2008 to May 2009, DCCA posted a minimal 3 to 4 percent increase in the number of household cases and household members under the program.

DCCA presently provides \$133 monthly assistance to a household size of one, if the income is zero. The maximum monthly income allowable for a household size of one is \$541.

'Inclusion of poor permanent

GUERRERO

From Page 1

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson's question during a hearing on June 11 whether Guerrero was paid in cash or check for his genealogical services.

The June 11 hearing focused on the U.S. government's motion to compel the lawyers of former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, James A. Santos, and Joaquina V. Santos to disclose the identity of the person who allegedly revealed that some witnesses in the Rydlyme case were related to some jurors. Munson denied the motion as moot.

At that hearing, Villagomez's lawyer, David J. Lujan, told the court about a gathering at the house of one of the children of former governor Pedro Tenorio after the guilty verdict came out.

Lujan said that people were talking about receiving calls about some jurors being related to some government witnesses. He said another lawyer suggested hiring a genealogist to ascertain the information.

After an hour into the gathering, Guerrero arrived, Lujan said. The defendants then hired Guerrero to do a genealogical survey on the jurors. Lujan said he was shocked to learn about

Santos' committee met with lending institutions, representatives from the CNMI Bar Association, the Commonwealth Development Authority, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. to deliberate on the proposed Rule 73.

Testimony and comments submitted to the committee were in support of the proposed rule.

residents'

Last April, the CNMI government filed an application for a \$3 million grant that would allow the inclusion of poor permanent residents in the federal NAP. The Commonwealth targets stimulus funds as a main source of this additional assistance.

Permanent residents are foreign nationals who were granted permanent residency status on island.

DCCA earlier disclosed that there are approximately over 200 permanent residents who may be eligible for food stamps but are barred because of the citizenship requirement.

Saipan Tribune learned that the number of food stamp recipients dropped in the last three years due to the increase in the minimum wage, attrition because of noncompliance with rules, and many recipients moving off-island.

In October 2008, the agency provided assistance to 7,606 clients, a small drop compared to the 7,694 in the same period in 2007.

DCCA had 8,192 recipients in October 2006.

The NAP is administered by the DCCA and operates under a block grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The program earmarks 30 percent of food stamps for the purchase of local commodities and the program policy provides work incentives to develop self-sufficiency and stimulate the local economy.

It was established to promote the general welfare and to safeguard the health and well being of Commonwealth residents by raising the levels of nutrition among low-income, zero-income and needy families and individuals.

the juror-witness relationships.

In response to Munson's questions, Quichocho admitted that one of the defendants paid Guerrero for the genealogical survey. Quichocho said the checks for the payments came from his office.

In his order yesterday denying the defendants' motion for a new trial, Munson said the court will treat Guerrero's declaration as a mere opinion by a lay witness, adding that he finds Guerrero's declaration unconvincing.

In a footnote to his ruling, the judge said the defendants submitted family trees as demonstrative of these familial connections.

"However, the documents are not authenticated and there is no indication how the documents were created or why the court should treat them as trustworthy sources of information. Further, the court funds them unhelpful," he said.

Munson said the lineages are not labeled and are difficult to decipher.

He said to the extent that they can be deciphered they appear to leave out siblings (each offspring along each generation has no listed siblings).

"The result is that the family trees do not include aunts, uncles, cousins, second cousins, or third cousins—all of the relations alleged in this motion," Munson said.

CUC: Inaccurate billing must be reported in 30 days

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. appealed to its customers to immediately report inaccurate billings so the problem could be fixed right away.

CUC executive director Antonio S. Muña, in a notice to customers, said the agency makes every effort to ensure it issues accurate power and utility billings to customers.

"If you feel that your bill is in error, please visit your CUC customer service office and bring it to

the attention of one of your CUC customer service representatives," Muña said, advising that cashiers are not authorized to address any customer billing concerns as these could only be remedied by the customer service reps.

Muña said that from the date of billing, customers have 30 days to address any billing concerns before their disconnection date.

"We encourage you not to wait until after you have been disconnected to bring your billing concerns to the attention of CUC customer representatives," Muna's notice states.

It will be recalled that CUC was bombarded in recent months by complaints of "excessive" and "inaccurate" billings resulting in customers' power disconnections.

Muna said customers must take advantage of the 30-day window to prevent further hassles.

He assured customers that the customer service reps bring to his attention matters that are beyond their authority to address.

Muña reminded customers that they are still responsible for any amounts on their utility billings that are not in question.

American Samoa politician eyes Guam jobs

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—A former American Samoan congressional candidate, Aumua Amata Coleman, has launched a bid to find jobs for workers set to lose their jobs when the Samoa Packing cannery

closes in three months. Aumua says she has been in touch with her contacts in the federal government and private business to try and find employment for the 2,000 people set to be laid off. She says they are suited for work in

Guam where the US is expanding its military bases. "Adjustment of island living stands to be much easier for workers and families who come from other tropical islands rather than from a mainland locale. And so they are very, very interested and they are interested in taking a look at folks who will be out of a jobs come October 1."

JUDGE

From Page 1

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson said the three failed to prove allegations that the jurors were biased.

"The motion for a new trial based on juror and prosecutorial misconduct is denied," Munson said. "...The evidence is sufficient for a rational trier of fact to find defendants guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of each count in the indictment."

He said there is enough evidence to sustain the convictions.

Villagomez and the Santos couple are set to be sentenced on July 28, 2009.

The jury on April 24 found Villagomez and the Santos guilty of conspiracy to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud, theft concerning a program receiving federal funds, and bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds.

The three's lawyers—David J. Lujan, Victorino Torres, and Ramon Quichocho—had asked for a new trial because seven jurors were allegedly blood relatives of some government witnesses and that they failed to inform the court of these relationships, tantamount to jury misconduct. The lawyers

presented the declaration of Herman Guerrero, who did a genealogical history of the jurors and witnesses to trace their blood relations.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley had questioned, however, why the defense lawyers waited until the guilty verdict before looking into the alleged juror relationship issue. He said the U.S. government takes issue with the argument that each juror was aware of his or her alleged relationship to the witnesses.

In his order issued yesterday, Munson said the defendants failed to demonstrate "actual bias" among the jurors and that he finds Guerrero's testimony unconvincing.

He pointed out that Guerrero does not claim to have personal knowledge of the connections, nor was he offered as an expert. Munson said he will therefore treat Guerrero's declaration as an opinion of a lay witness.

"Accordingly, although the declaration will be considered, the court will not treat them as expert testimony and finds them unconvincing," he said.

Further, Munson said, although familial connections between jurors and witnesses are important, they are less problematic than relationships between jurors and the defendants or the attorneys.

Munson said witnesses play an es-

sential role in any trial, but they are not generally affected by the outcome in the same way as the parties and attorneys are.

He said the defendants failed to fulfill their initial burden to demonstrate to the court that any of these jurors were intentionally dishonest.

Even if the court found that the allegations of dishonesty were true, Munson said the defendants also must demonstrate that a correct response would have provided a valid basis for a challenge for cause.

The burden has not been fulfilled, he noted.

Munson said the singled out jurors in this motion each stated under oath that they were able to take the evidence as it was presented and make an impartial decision based solely on the evidence before them.

He said the defendants failed to convince the court that these jurors would have been validly challenged for cause even if these alleged relationships are true and were revealed.

As such, Munson said, defendants failed to show that an honest answer "would have created a valid basis for a challenge for cause."

Accordingly, he said, the defendants failed to demonstrate that the jurors were actually biased.

'Show-cause report vital to NMC's next evaluation'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The president of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges said the Northern Marianas College's show-cause report will become part of the college's accreditation history and should be used, together with the comprehensive team report, in preparing for its next comprehensive evaluation.

In a two-page letter to NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez dated June 30, Dr. Barbara

Beno told the college management to spread the word about NMC getting back its accreditation status, which was finally reaffirmed through 2012—subject to another comprehensive review.

The commission met on June 9 to 11 and reviewed the show-cause report submitted by NMC.

"The commission took action to accept the report, remove the show-cause, and reaffirm accreditation. The commission also acted to require a visit by

representatives following the submission of the Oct. 15, 2009 midterm report," Beno told Fernandez.

The purpose of the WASC visit will be to evaluate the sustainability of the actions taken by the college to resolve the recommendations resulting from the 2006 comprehensive visit.

There were originally six team recommendations cited in the 2006 commission visit. Of these concerns, two remained unaddressed last year, resulting in the college being put on show-cause status from the previous probation status in 2007.

Beno reiterated the importance of informing all staff, students and the public about what NMC has achieved based on the show-cause report it submitted.

She required placing the show-cause report at the college library to make it available to

students and the public.

Beno said all colleges are required to file midterm reports in the third year after each comprehensive evaluation.

Midterm reports, she said, indicate resolution of any team recommendations made for

improvement, including a summary of progress on plans for improvement as stated in the self-study report.

This is also a forecast where the college expects to be by the time of the next comprehensive evaluation.

"On behalf of the commission, I wish to express continuing interest in the institution's educational quality and students' success. Professional self-regulation is the most effective means of assuring institutional integrity, effectiveness,

USS Charlotte ends 5-day visit

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

USS Charlotte (SSN-766) concludes today its five-day visit to Saipan.

The submarine's captain, Alan Moore, and some of the crew joined the Liberation Day parade and ceremonies last Saturday.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce hosted a no-host farewell party for the vessel's officers and crew at the 360 Revolving Restaurant at the Marianas

Business Plaza last night.

This is the second visit of USS Charlotte to Saipan following its first stop in 2005.

The USS Charlotte is the fourth ship of the U.S. Navy to be named for Charlotte, North Carolina.

It is also the seventh American navy ship to visit the CNMI this year.

Last month, the USS Thach (FFG-43) under Capt. David Haas visited Saipan for the first time for rest and recre-

ation purposes.

The USS Charlotte was launched in 1992 and was commissioned in September 1994. It is a mother submarine for the Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle or DSRV, capable of launching and recovering Advanced SEAL Delivery System.

The ship had been featured in Tom Clancy's fictional *Debt of Honor* as well as in movies, including Dan Brown's *Deception Point* and another film, *National Treasure*.

Board of Regents chair defends NMC president

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The chairman of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents came to the defense of college president Dr. Carmen Fernandez against criticisms by Rep. Stanley Torres, saying the board has full confidence in her.

In a letter to Torres, Charles V. Cepeda said the lawmaker is misinformed about any misconduct being alleged against the president, as indicated in the lawmaker's June 19 letter to the board.

"You have, in fact, been misinformed about such misconduct. The board has confidence in the current NMC administration...and this confidence is reflected in our recent decision to renew president Fernandez's contract for another four years," Cepeda said.

The lawmaker had questioned Fernandez's "employment practices" in a letter to the board where he had also asked for copies of documents that the college management had refused to provide him due to privacy and confidentiality issues.

Cepeda assured the lawmaker that the regents are fully aware of their obligations to NMC, and take these responsibilities seriously.

Cepeda told the lawmaker that, as chairman of the board, he has no custody or control over the documents Torres is

requesting.

"Your previous requests have been directed to the president of NMC, and I support the previous decision taken by the president in consultation with the NMC legal counsel," the chairman said.

Cepeda also urged Torres to reconsider his threat of litigation should the college refuse to hand over the documents he is asking for. The lawmaker had cited his previous court battles with NMC to gain access to some documents and



Cepeda

had threatened to do the same with his current request.

"The documents you have requested would not be subject to disclosure under the Open Government Act, as they would be protected by privacy laws," he told the congressman, adding that disclosure of these documents would also violate confidentiality agreements.

He said he understands and appreciates the lawmaker's inquiry but reiterated that the law simply would not allow NMC to comply with the current request.

Torres, in his last letter to the board, indicated that he will keep asking for the documents because it's the public's right to know if Fernandez and the board paid taxpayers' money to settle employment and contract disputes at the college.

Torres also said that "if the allegations against Fernandez are false, then she must prove it."

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Life in Motion

2 power outages due to car accident, lightning

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two unscheduled power outages that occurred early Monday were caused by a vehicular accident and lightning in two separate areas on Saipan, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday.

At about 12:30am Monday, a vehicular accident on Tun Joaquin Doi Road involving a CUC power pole caused a power outage that affected the Kiya 2 circuit.

CUC said the problem was isolated and the first and second partials were re-energized at 1:25am. The line crew performed the necessary repairs

and the circuit was completed at 2:25am.

At 4:30am, the Chalan Kiya Substation tripped due to a lightning strike, which activated the relays and automatically took all the Kiya circuits offline.

Because of the electrical fault, the Aggreko power plant relays were also activated, tripping the

engines at the facility.

"The immediate loss of generation required the Power Plant 1 operators to manually trip the

Feeder 4 circuit to prevent further complications to the system," CUC explained, adding that a complete inspection of the

system was conducted and the restoration process was initiated and the final feeder was restored at 6:42am.

Chamber: No to lower pachinko license fee

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The biggest business organization in the CNMI opposes a proposal to lower the pachinko slot machine license fee from \$6,000 to \$2,000, saying it is inappropriate for the Legislature to tinker with established fees in response to a request from a single company.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Jim Arenovski said such action on the part of the Legislature furthers the impression that the CNMI's business environment is unstable and that laws, regulations and fees are driven more by well-connected investors than by a coherent legislative vision that equitably forms the framework for conducting businesses on the islands.

The Chamber's Government Relations Committee reviewed and discussed House Bill 16-225, and disagreed with the measure's intent.

H.B. 16-225, introduced by Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan), said lowering the annual fee from \$6,000 to \$2,000 is reasonable to encourage more widespread offering of pachinko slot machines at amusement

machine establishments.

"More machines offered will entice more players, translating to more license fee revenue and jackpot winning taxes for the general fund," the bill said.

The House Ways and Means Committee chaired by Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) recommended the bill's passage.

But the Chamber of Commerce, in a letter to House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) and Yumul, said businesses seeking tax relief may apply for such under the Qualifying Certificate Program.

"As we have said previously, and on numerous occasions, if the Legislature believes that the Qualifying Certificate Program is flawed or not accomplishing economic development goals as envisioned by the Legislature, then that program should be either legislatively fixed or repealed and replaced with a more effective program that offers economic development incentive across the entire Commonwealth economy, and not just for the benefit of one company," Arenovski told Palacios and Yumul.

'Contradictory bills'

In recent period, the Legislature

has introduced measures whose intents contradict each other.

On one end, there are bills that would increase taxes, including: H.B. 16-170 which suspends tax rebates; H.B. 16-216 which raises Registrar of Corporations filing fees; H.B. 16-217, raising business license fees; and H.B. 16-221, raising amusement machine license fees.

There are also bills that would reduce fees: H.B. 16-185, decreasing the poker machine jackpot tax; H.B. 16-225, which reduces pachinko machine license fees; and H.B. 16-248, eliminating gross revenue taxes for certain small businesses.

The Chamber of Commerce said the Legislature should work cohesively and with that administration to develop a sound fiscal plan for the CNMI that transcends whether one particular company should be granted a reduction in pachinko machine license fees.

Pachinko slot machines are less popular than poker machines.

But Yumul's committee report said that there are currently no licensed pachinko slot machines on island.



CROWD FAVORITE

Scared at the sight, a boy, right, runs toward his mother and away from a group of panda mascots as part of the Chinese Association of Saipan's contingency during Saturday's Liberation Day parade. The panda mascots were among the crowd favorite at the parade, which drew thousands of residents and tourists despite the overcast skies and the constant threat of rain.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Doctor says she in fact saved patient's life

A doctor who was sued by a Saipan resident for alleged medical malpractice has stated that it was she who in fact saved the patient's life.

In an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*, Dr. Barbara Honnebier said Mary Anne Stewart's life was saved because of her clinical judgment.

"My office went out of its way to help this patient with

her never-ending issues, most of which were caused by obesity and non-compliance," Honnebier said.

She described Stewart as a "psychologically unstable patient."

Stewart filed the lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the NMI last April. She alleged that the former Hawaii-based Honnebier failed to exercise due care

and follow-up on her breasts' reconstructive surgery.

The plaintiff asked the court to order the doctor and her Pacific Institute of Human Restoration LLC to pay her damages. She filed the lawsuit without a lawyer.

A check with the federal court yesterday showed that Honnebier has not yet filed a response to the lawsuit. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Huesman: Payments to lawyers in federalization lawsuit confidential

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The payments related to the CNMI administration's lawsuit against federalization is highly confidential and the CNMI Superior Court recognized this need for secrecy with some of the documents, according to government lawyer Braddock J. Huesman.

Huesman, lawyer for Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, said the CNMI government has an interest in keeping secret some of the documents being requested by Rep. Tina Sablan, and that associate judge David Wiseman recognized this.

The litigation budget, amounts paid to attorneys who represent the CNMI in the federalization lawsuit, and the amount being charged by attorneys are not secret in any sense of the word, as Wiseman pointed out, said Hues-

man in Fitial's and Inos' appeal to the CNMI Supreme Court.

"They are, however, highly confidential and those documents, by necessity, contain information that any litigant would want to keep from its adversary during the course of litigation. This is true for the life of the litigation," he said.

Huesman said Wiseman discounted this "because of press reports and other public announcements."

"This was an error. Just because exempt records are waived in some instances does not mean they are waived for every reason," he asserted.

Sablan had sued Fitial and Inos to compel the administration to disclose where it is getting the money to fund the lawsuit against federalization.

Last June 18, Wiseman ordered Fitial and Inos to release within 48 hours all requested

documents—except the engagement letter and detailed invoices—to Sablan.

Fitial and Inos immediately appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court. The high court gave Fitial and Inos until July 2 to file their pleadings.

In Fitial's and Inos' pleadings filed on Thursday, Huesman said Wiseman's decision was erroneous as the trial court shifted the burden of the "clearly unnecessary" test to Fitial and Inos.

The government lawyer said Wiseman held that the government had not offered any proof that withholding the documents was necessary to protect a vital government function.

"The burden of proof for proving the documents are clearly unnecessary to protect a vital government function rests solely with Rep. Sablan, not the Governor and Lt. Governor," he said.

Huesman said the trial court judge ignored established case law that protects billing documents from public records disclosure.



DELTA/NWA DONATION

Delta/Northwest Airlines recently donated \$850 worth of school and office supplies from National Office Supply to Oleai Elementary School. The proceeds were from the 2008 NWA Golf Tournament for Children's Education held at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. All funds raised at the annual tournament are donated to various children's educational charities, activities or organizations in the CNMI. Other 2008 beneficiaries include the Saipan Rotary Club's Parade of Books program, Dandan Elementary School and Mt. Carmel School. Photo shows, from left, Esther F. Sound, Delta/NWA sales representative; Glenn Muna, Oleai Elementary School principal; and Christopher A. Concepcion, Delta/NWA sales representative. The check presentation event took place at the Delta/Northwest Airlines Sales Office at the Saipan International Airport.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BankPacific marks 55 years of banking in the Pacific

It was a Wednesday, July 7, in 1954 when Joseph Flores opened the doors of Guam's first bank, Guam Savings and Loan Association, now known as BankPacific.

The bank's first customer was then governor Carlton Skinner.

Their first office was located in Hagatna where the DNA building now sits.

The members of first the board of directors included

Flores, Jake Calvo, Frank D. Perez, Joaquin Guerrero, and Felix Camacho.

Today 55 years later, BankPacific is celebrating its 55th anniversary, an achievement accomplished by few companies and in today's world, even fewer banks.

"On behalf of our family at BankPacific, thank you for allowing us to serve our communities," said Flores, Bank-

Pacific president. "And while we look forward to our next 55 years with excited anticipation, we have an especially keen eye on the next 10 years and helping individuals, families and companies keep up with and enjoy the growth we will soon see in Guam, the Cnmi, Palau and the rest of our region. We're committed as only a neighbor could be." (PR)

Arts council eyes regular teach-in at Street Market

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture is planning to put up a regular teach-in ac-

Chamorro writing workshop starts today

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's indigenous language experts will open today their five-day workshop at the Pacific Islands Club to review the rules of the Chamorro writing system, with sessions scheduled from 7:30am to 3pm, from July 7 to 11.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will deliver an inspirational remark before the start of the sessions.

The orthography workshop is jointly sponsored by the Chamorro-Carolinian Language Policy Commission, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, NMI Council of Humanities, National Science Foundation-Chamorro Dictionary Project and the Public School System-Chamorro/Carolinian Heritage Studies Program.

tivity program at the Garapan Street Market as part of continuing effort to help local artists.

Arts coordinator Lucille Ayuyu said this is one way of setting a venue for local artists

Included on the list of potential participants are CCLP chair Bill Macaranas, Tita Hocog, Angie Fitial, Ben Borja, Julie Calvo, Manny Borja, Rose Warakai, Lumi Bermudes, Bernie Sablan, Rose Taimanao, Vivian Odoshi, Vince Rabauliman, Rit Guerrero, Rose Magofna, Joe Sanchez and Noel Quitugua.

Presenters will be Henry Sablan, Rita Inos, Bill Macaranas, Dr. Sandra Chung and Carmen Taimanao, to be coordinated by CCLP director Dave Omar and Dr. Liz Rechebei.

Macaranas will discuss a brief history of Chamorro writing system as well as the importance of the workshop.

Omar will give his views on the three main focuses of the CCLPC programs, Chung will give an introduction on the underlying principles of good or-

to share their skills and make some profit at the same time.

She said the Thursday street market is also a good spot since it is where tourists gather and experience the local culture.

thography, and Taimanao will discuss why the rules need to be revised.

The possible revisions in the writing system of the local language will be the topic of panelists composed of Chung, Inos, Taimanao and Macaranas.

The workshop is part of an effort to reverse the general assumption among parents that if their children are taught English at home, they will do better in school.

CCLPC wants to correct this misguided notion because it is the main cause of the massive decline in the number of children speaking the local dialects.

The workshop is to see whether the current Chamorro Orthography is still applicable. It would be the first time that a review of the rules will be made following its creation in 1973.

The Council had just concluded its monthlong women's art exhibit, drawing 16 participating artists, its biggest so far.

Total sales were, however, lower this year compared to last year, as most buyers settled for smaller items like earrings, bracelets, flowers, hairclips, and other handicrafts.

"We're just hoping to get more visitors to Saipan," Ayuyu said.

One of the ways to improve sales is to bring the exhibit closer to tourists.

The next exhibit will be the Cultural Heritage and Art Paci-

fica in September, which was held at the Joeten car sales display center last year. The Council is hoping to hold it there again this year.

This exhibit is open to all artists and all the sales go back to the participating artists. "We're just here to assist them. We don't profit from these exhibits," she said.

CAC is also tapping artist to teach students during school cultural activities. "We're paying the artists to teach the kids whenever there are invitations from the school," she said.

Meanwhile, the Council is inviting all the local artists to register with them. "We know that there are also artists out there and we would like them to be recognized," she said.

There are over a hundred artists currently registered with the Council.

The Council's first activity this year was the Flame Tree Festival, followed by the women's art exhibit, then the Art Pacifica and finally, the Christmas Craft exhibit. The CNMI also sends a delegation to the annual Guam Micronesia Fair.



SUPPORT FOR THE HUMANITIES

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Anthony Wenceslao, field operations manager, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., right, presents a \$1,500 check to NMI Council for the Humanities executive director Antonio V. Deleon Guerrero. The Humanities Council will use this donation to support its Motherhead Family Literacy Program.

Local homes urged to host exchange students

Two groups of students from Japan will be arriving on Saipan this month and the Office of the Saipan Mayor is looking for local families who would be willing to host these students during their stay on the island.

The students under the Sanpo En Students Exchange Program will be arriving on July 28 and will be staying until Aug. 3, 2009. Between these dates, the students will



Tudela

dents will spend two nights with the homestay sponsors, on July 31 and Aug. 1, 2009.

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela would like to ask Saipan residents, especially those whose children have participated in the Sanpo En Students Exchange Program in the past, to welcome the students by bringing them into their home on these two nights.

At the same time, the KSKK Students Exchange Program from Japan will be arriving on July 24 and will be on island through

July 31, 2009.

Tudela is also asking residents, especially families who have children that have participated in the KSKK Students Exchange Program in the past, to welcome the students by bringing them into their home throughout the duration of their stay on the island.

Anyone who would like to sponsor a student may call the Saipan Mayor's Office at 234-6280 or 6208 during normal business hours, Monday to Friday, and ask for Jemalyn T. Tenorio, Youth Services Coordinator or Tony A. Benavente. (PR)



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** The \$55 annual fee is waived for the first year. The APR is a variable rate of 14.49% as of 5/1/09. The ATM Cash Advance Fee is 3% of the transaction amount (\$3 min/\$50 max) and the Over-the-Counter Cash Advance Fee, Balance Transfer and Convenience Check Fees are 3% of the transaction amount (\$5 min/\$50 max). The Foreign Transaction Fee is 2.5%. All OnePass program rules and conditions apply, including Continental's right to terminate or modify the OnePass program.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free lecture on Article 12 today

The NMI Council for the Humanities is inviting the public to a lecture titled “Article 12, Claims to Culture and Political Rights: the Race vs. Political Identity Dilemma” at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater. It will be held today, July 7, at 6pm. In her lecture, visiting law professor Rose Cuison Villazor will discuss the legal, historical and cultural relationships between Article 12 and other “blood quantum property laws” in American Samoa, Hawaii and other jurisdictions and situate them in constitutional jurisprudence. Villazor, a former Saipan resident and 1991 graduate of Mt. Carmel High School, is an associate professor of Law at Hofstra University Law School. For more information, call 235-4785. *(PR)*

Marianas High School reminders

For incoming freshmen, turn in your Blue Immunization Health Card to the MHS Registrar’s Office between 8am and 4pm, Monday to Friday.

For ongoing students, pick up your 4th Quarter Report Card from the MHS Counseling Office between 8am and 4pm, Monday to Friday.

Registration is ongoing for new students. Pick up a registration form at the MHS Registrar’s Office between 8am and 4pm, Monday to Friday. *(PR)*

Live fire releases on FDM set

The U.S. military will be conducting live fire releases (96 EBS) on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla on July 8 – 9, from 4pm to 1am.

The general location of this

activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla training area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. *(EMO)*

DEQ brigade sets cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Aboni Beach in Garapanon July 11, 2009.

Those who would like to volun-

teer should meet with the group at 8am behind the Mobil gas station/Mc Donald’s restaurant.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches. For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. *(DEQ)*

MCS to host alumni dinner fundraiser

The officers for school year 2008-2009 of the Mount Carmel School Parent Teacher Organization, in cooperation with Mount Carmel School, will be hosting an MCS Alumni Dinner on July 24, 2009 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

The event aims to raise funds to help the ongoing efforts to refurbish the aging school gymnasium/cafeteria. The event will be from 6pm to 10pm and will host various speakers and slide presentations.

Tickets, which are \$50 per person, are now on sale at the Mount Carmel School business office and from MCS PTO board officers. All check and money order payments should be made payable to Mount Carmel School. For more information, contact the MCS PTO Board Officers at e-mail address mcsptboard@yahoo.com, or call the MCS business office and leave your contact information. *(PR)*

NMC English placement tests set

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting English placement tests for Summer Session II and the Fall 2009 semester:

- July 2 1pm - 4pm D-1
- Aug. 3 1pm - 4pm D-1
- Aug. 5 5pm - 8pm D-1
- August 6 1pm - 4pm D-1
- Aug. 13 5pm - 8pm D-1
- Aug. 14 9am - 12pm D-1
- Aug. 21 9am - 12pm A-5

Registration for Summer Session IIa (July 6 – Aug. 14) will continue until July 2. Registration for the Fall 2009 semester will begin on Aug. 17 and end on Aug. 21. New students are required to take the English placement test before registering for classes.

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver’s license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

There is a \$25 fee each for the English placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (M-F, 9am - 4pm). If you have any questions, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Department at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 2017 or Mona Camacho at Ext. 1242. For additional information, log on to www.nmcnet.edu. *(NMC)*

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 7, 1999

More power eyed for CUC

The House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications will introduce new legislation to grant more powers to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to oversee the functions of a proposed telecommunications agency in the CNMI. Committee chair Rep. David M. Apatang said extending its authorities would be less expensive than establishing a new regulatory body to handle the growing telecommunications sector on the island. “What we are looking at is maybe giving CUC full force authority on the proposed telecom regulations,” he said after meeting yesterday with Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez and Bob Webb, the governor’s special assistant for Telecommunications.

Plan to ‘localize’ park administration nixed

Expressing doubts on the local government’s capability to manage park facilities efficiently, an official of the National Park Service or NPS is opposing a proposal to localize the administration of the American Memorial Park. “We would like to continue the collaborative relationship that we have with the commonwealth in the management of the American Memorial Park,” NPS superintendent Karen Gustin said. Gustin was commenting on Senate Bill 11-126, which seeks to authorize and empower the governor to request the secretary of the Department of the Interior the transfer of the administration of the American Memorial Park to the local government.

July 7, 2000

DPS, DPH may miss court deadline

The Departments of Public Safety and Public Health will find it hard to meet the deadlines set by the Superior Court in ensuring that murder suspect Dwayne M. Sibetang will be provided with facilities that are sufficiently staffed with qualified mental health professionals due to unavailability of funds. Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas has ordered the CNMI government to certify on or before July 12, 2000 that the Division of Corrections has all the necessary facilities that meet the requirements of the Patient’s Rights Act and the Criminal Commitment Act. Both the PRA and the CCA require that Mr. Sibetang, who is mentally-ill, receive prompt and adequate treatment by qualified mental health professionals, including a forensic psychiatrist, 24 hours a day.

SNILD allows street naming commission to change plan

Saipan lawmakers yesterday passed a local bill to allow the streetnaming commission to alter initial plan on the efforts to mark streets and roads on the island. The measure, offered by Rep. David M. Apatang, stemmed from a petition by San Antonio residents to block the plan to assign local fish names on the village’s streets. They instead want to retain the present system in which streets are identified by letters and numbers, saying that this is simple, short and easy to remember.



July 7, 2003

Blackout on Rota looms

Blackout is likely to occur in a large portion of Rota if no immediate action is taken by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to upgrade its inoperative substation, warned Rota-CUC resident director Charles Manglona. In his report to the CUC board of Directors, Manglona said that CUC Rota has actually been purchasing power from the Rota Resort and Country Club to serve approximately 40 percent of the island’s electricity demand. The resort, however, has informed the CUC that its generators are up for overhaul so it would have to disconnect its services to CUC.

‘Dela Cruz to submit resignation letter today’

Sen. Jose M. Dela Cruz will reportedly submit his letter of resignation to Senate president Paul A. Manglona today. According to sources close to the Dela Cruz camp, the Senate vice president will officially be relinquishing his post with the submission of the resignation letter, in the wake of his conviction Thursday last week on conspiracy to commit wire fraud. It was not immediately clear as to when Dela Cruz’s resignation will take effect. The senator also wrote an open letter to the people of Tinian and the CNMI yesterday, apologizing for breaking the trust they had placed in him when they elected him to the Senate.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

June 2009 Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in Saipan Water

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. Throughout **June 2009**, we collected **136** water samples in Saipan to test for the presence of coliform bacteria with **18** samples or **13.24%** showing the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than five percent (5%) of samples may do so.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other; potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipelines). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. We did find these bacteria in our subsequent testing, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.

What happened? What was done? Look below for the specific village or streets where problems occurred in June 2009:

- **Lower Dandan (IB-2):** (sample ID# 17A, 17C, Holiday Dr., Independence Lp., Natibu Pl.) Tests indicated that there were inadequate chlorine levels in the water system; however, on June 4th 2009, the treatment operator discovered the chlorine ejector at Isley Booster 2 for this water supply malfunctioned. Treatment operator replaced the damaged ejector, flushed the lines and increased chlorine treatment for the disinfection. This may be the cause for the bacterial contamination. Repeat samples tests indicated the water to be free of both total coliform and *E. coli*.
- **Donni Spring:** (sample ID# 8C, Santa Lourdes Rd..) Tests indicated that there were adequate chlorine levels in the water system; however, sample sites are in non 24-hour water service areas and were experiencing low water pressure. Therefore, the chlorine treatment did not have enough mixing or contact time within the distribution system. The treatment operators flushed the lines and increased chlorine treatment for the disinfection.
- **Kagman (KG-131):** (sample ID# 43A, Kagman Rd.) Tests indicated that there were adequate chlorine levels in the water system; however, the water operators are still investigating the cause for the bacterial contamination in this area. The treatment operators flushed the lines and increased chlorine treatment for the disinfection. Repeat samples tests indicated the water to be free of both total coliform and *E. coli*. The Lab samplers had additional training on collecting samples.
- **Puerto Rico Reservoir:** (sample ID# 37A, Beach Rd. at Naked Fish North to Chalan Pale Arnold at Army Reserve.) Tests indicated that there were adequate chlorine levels in the water system; however, sample sites are in non 24-hour water service areas and were experiencing low water pressure. Therefore, the chlorine treatment did not have enough mixing or contact time within the distribution system. The treatment operators flushed the lines and increased chlorine treatment for the disinfection. Repeat samples tests indicated the water to be free of both total coliform and *E. coli*.
- **Sadog Tasi (SQ-150):** (sample ID# 4A, Sadog Tasi Dr., Acho Tasi Pl., Rubentasion Ln.) Tests indicated that there were adequate chlorine levels in the water system; however, the water operators are still investigating the cause for the bacterial contamination in this area. The treatment operators flushed the lines and increased chlorine treatment for the disinfection. Repeat samples tests indicated the water to be free of both total coliform and *E. coli*. The Lab samplers had additional training on collecting samples.
- **Kagman Reservoir:** (sample ID# 11A, Kagman Rd., Gaogao Dr., Nonnak Ave., Forbidden Island Rd., Halflower St.) Tests indicated that there were adequate chlorine levels in the water system; however, the water operators are still investigating the cause for the bacterial contamination in this area. The treatment operators flushed the lines and increased chlorine treatment for the disinfection. Repeat samples tests indicated the water to be free of both total coliform and *E. coli*. The Lab samplers had additional training on collecting samples.
- **Kagman Reservoir:** (sample ID# 10A, Hasngot Dr.) Tests indicated that there were adequate chlorine levels in the water system; however, the water operators are still investigating the cause for the bacterial contamination in this area. The treatment operators flushed the lines and increased chlorine treatment for the disinfection. Repeat samples tests indicated the water to be free of both total coliform and *E. coli*. The Lab samplers had additional training on collecting samples.
- **Capitol Hill Reservoir (CH-2):** (sample ID# 5A, 1300 Block) Tests indicated that there were adequate chlorine levels in the water system; however, sample sites are in non 24-hour water service areas and were experiencing low water pressure. Therefore, the chlorine treatment did not have enough mixing or contact time within the distribution system. The treatment operators flushed the lines and increased chlorine treatment for the disinfection. Repeat samples tests indicated the water to be free of both total coliform and *E. coli*.
- **Lower Gualo Rai (GR-4 & GR-5):** (sample ID# 31A, Earhart Dr., Isley Pl., Rai Dr. Espana St.) Tests indicated that there were adequate chlorine levels in the water system; however, the water operators are still investigating the cause for the bacterial contamination in this area. The treatment operators flushed the lines and increased chlorine treatment for the disinfection. Repeat samples tests indicated the water to be free of both total coliform and *E. coli*. The Lab samplers had additional training on collecting samples.
- **Obyan (OB-14/15):** (sample ID# 41B, 41A-1 Ladder Beach Ln., Naftan Rd., Flame Tree Rd., Obyan Beach Dr.) Tests indicated that there were adequate chlorine levels in the water system; however, the water operators discovered a leak on Friday, June 26, 2009 along Naftan Rd., and were able to repair leak on Saturday, June 27, 2009. This may be the cause for the bacterial contamination. The treatment operators flushed the lines and increased chlorine treatment for the disinfection.
- **Upper MIHA Housing (CL Reservoir):** (sample ID# 33A, Sugar King Rd., Chalan Pale Arnold, Navy Hill Rd.) Tests indicated that there were adequate chlorine levels in the water system; however, the treatment operator discovered an air relief leak inside the valve box. The treatment operator repaired the leak on the 14th, flushed the lines and increased chlorine treatment for the disinfection. This may be the cause for the bacterial contamination. Repeat samples tests indicated the water to be free of both total coliform and *E. coli*.
- **Koblerville (KV21/22):** (sample ID# 27B, from Highway 33, Eskabeche Ave., Ilotes Way; Gollai Appan, and Adobu Dr.) Tests indicated that there were inadequate chlorine levels in the water system; however, on June 18th 2009, the treatment operator discovered two leaks; the first leak was before the water meter at 27B residence, and the second leak was a 2" lateral near 27B. Both leaks were repaired and the treatment operator flushed the lines and increased chlorine treatment for the disinfection. This may be the cause for the bacterial contamination.
- **Tasa Spring:** (sample ID# 1231, Orhopay Pl.) Tests indicated that there were adequate chlorine levels in the water system; however, this site gets a direct feed from Tasa Booster which the chlorine treatment did not have enough mixing or contact time. This may be the cause for the bacterial contamination. The treatment operators will continue to monitor the system and check for turbidity changes.

For more information, please contact CUC Acting Water Quality Laboratory Manager, Vinson (Vinnie) Sablan at 322-5140 or via email at: vin.sablan@gmail.com or contact CUC Acting Water/Wastewater Operations Manager, Alan Lebria at 235-7025 or via email at: lebria.alan@gmail.com

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Water Division
State Water System ID #: MP 0000001 Date Distributed: **July 7, 2009**

Island Snapshots



NMC RE-ACCREDITED

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, center, poses with Liberation Day festival guests and NMC officials after announcing the good news during Saturday's festivities in Garapan that the Western Association of Schools and Colleges had reaffirmed NMC's four-year accreditation.

MONETH G. DEPOSA



THIRD PLACE

San Jose Parish's entry won third place in the Liberation Day parade's float competition.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



CONFIRMED

Sen. Maria "Frica" Pangelina (D-Saipan) congratulates Benigno Sablan, right, after the Senate confirmed by an 8-0 vote his reappointment to the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors Wednesday last week. The Senate also confirmed in absentia Margaret Prater's reappointment to the CPA board. Also in the photo is Nace Soalablai of the Office of the Governor.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



DANCE NUMBER

Guests from Kyungmin College of South Korea impress the crowd with dance numbers, including this one at the Liberation Day parade on Saturday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ENVIRONMENT CHAMP

Beautify CNMI chairs Joe Kaipat, Angelo Villagomez, and Laurie Peterka present Ken Kramer with a 2009 Beautify CNMI Environmental Champion Award at last Thursday's Beautify CNMI monthly meeting. Kramer was off-island in June and missed the awards ceremony where the awards were given to the other winners.



WELCOME HOME!

Congratulations and welcome home to Airman AJ Dela Cruz. Dela Cruz graduated from tech school on June 26, 2009, from Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. He is on island to do his Recruiter's Assistance Program and a little R&R. Again, congratulations on your accomplishments and welcome home.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Laura Williams! Hope you have a blast! Much love and prayers for many more birthdays to come coming from all your family and friends!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Special belated birthday greeting to Christian "Chris" Yamada and Joseph Yamada (not in photo) who celebrated their birthday on July 5. May you always enjoy everyday with a smile! Special greeting comes from your friends Dwayne, Lola, and Collin.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 161Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Hypocrisy on the Hill

For years, Democrats clamored for the closing of the detention center in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, using the prison to pummel President George W. Bush for abusing his authority, violating domestic and international law, and tarnishing the reputation of the United States. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., felt so strongly about the issue that she sponsored legislation in 2007 to force Mr. Bush to shutter the facility.

Now lawmakers are making it nearly impossible for President Obama to close the notorious prison by year's end, as he promised to do.

Ms. Feinstein, Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid, Nev., and 88 other senators—including every Republican—voted to attach to a must-pass, supplemental war spending bill several provisions that tie the president's hands. Ms. Feinstein complained that the president lacked a detailed plan to deal with detainees. Facing fear-mongering opponents who essentially accused Mr. Obama of having his heart set on letting hard-core terrorists roam through American backyards, the Senate withered and collapsed, with Maryland Democrats Barbara Mikulski and Benjamin L. Cardin and Virginia Democrats James Webb and Mark Warner joining the pack. Only six senators—all Democrats—had the courage to vote against this wrong-headed amendment: Richard J. Durbin, Ill., Tom Harkin, Iowa, Patrick J. Leahy, Vt., Carl M. Levin, Mich., and Rhode Island's Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse.

As a result of the vote, the president is prohibited from using taxpayer funds to order the release of any detainee into the United States, including those cleared by the Bush administration and the federal courts; he is likewise forbidden to bring any Guantanamo prisoners to the United States for preventive detention. The president must give lawmakers a 45-day heads up before ordering any detainee prosecuted in a U.S. court proceeding and he must give Congress 15 days' notice of his decision to send a detainee to another country.

It is therefore easy to understand why Mr. Obama may be tempted to circumvent lawmakers: The Post reported that he is considering an executive order to establish a preventive detention regime for those who may be too dangerous to release but against whom there is not enough usable evidence to file formal charges in a traditional courtroom. But he should resist the temptation of acting alone. Mr. Bush often did end runs around lawmakers for fear of being constrained; eventually the courts circumscribed his powers more than they likely would have if he had worked with Congress. Mr. Obama's best course lies in opening discussions with Congress on fashioning a preventive detention regime that will ensure due process and humane treatment of detainees. Let's hope that there will be leaders on the Hill available for thoughtful discussion.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



On money, a Founding Mother knows best

By WOODY HOLTON
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Thomas Jefferson died so deep in debt that his beloved estate, Monticello, had to be sold to satisfy his creditors. James Madison also left behind mounds of financial obligations. But John Adams, the man Jefferson turned out of the White House in 1801, died rich and debt-free—despite sharing his predecessor's careless attitude toward money. What was his secret?

His wife.

Long famous for her political partnership with her husband and her advocacy for women's rights, Abigail Adams was also something of a financial wizard. Some of the first lady's investment choices were a tad unsavory, but all of them were prudent, and many of her strategies remain useful today. Adams understood the difference between panic and reasonable caution. She largely avoided exposure to the speculative bubbles of the 1790s that did so much damage to her son-in-law and two of her sons. Had she been alive in July 2008 and owned stock in Abigail Adams National Bancorp, I suspect she would have sold it. (That financial institution named for Adams hasn't done as well as she did: It lost two-thirds of its value in the past year and is now being sold.)

This weekend, as we look back on all that this country's founding families bequeathed us, why not ask for just a little more help? We could all use it. If you were to hire Abigail Adams as your financial adviser, here's the advice that the Massachusetts matriarch would offer.

Invest with your head, not your heart.

For John Adams, land was a feel-good investment, since it bolstered his sense of personal independence. He wanted to invest all of his savings in real estate. But Abigail showed her husband that his farmland returned as little as 1 percent annually, while she could earn as much as 25 percent each year speculating in depreciated government securities. (These bonds had been disbursed to Continental Army soldiers and then inveigled from them at a fraction of their face value.) John continued to buy real estate, but he shifted a large chunk of his portfolio to bonds.

Wait for the motivated seller.

In 1785, the Adamses' daughter, also named Abigail, jilted her faithless fiancé, the playwright Royall Tyler—a move that her parents enthusiastically supported. After that, Tyler had no interest in remaining in the mansion that he had purchased for her in Braintree, Mass. He walked away from the house and stopped making payments to the seller, who had financed the transaction. The frustrated seller agreed to unload the house at a bargain price. The new buyers were Abigail and John Adams.

Take risks.

During the Revolutionary War, Abigail convinced John, who had traveled to Europe as a diplomat, to start sending her merchandise to sell. In time she would import everything from bulk linen and calico to gauze, lace, ribbon and "Barcelona handkerchiefs." Some of John's early shipments, which were uninsured, were captured by the British, and he got cold feet. But Abigail urged him not to become discouraged. The war had driven the price of European merchandise sky-high, so she could still make a handsome profit even if the majority of the vessels carrying her goods were captured. "If one in 3 arrives I should be a gainer," she told John in a 1779 letter, and he continued his shipments.

Stay coy while bargaining.

When buying real estate, Abigail sometimes had third parties approach potential sellers on her behalf. She instructed her agent in Massachusetts not to reveal that he was representing her until the bargain had been struck. Her concern was that if the seller knew he was dealing with the wealthy Adams family, he would demand a higher price.

Negotiate with the taxman.

While John was president, the tax collector in Quincy, Mass., the site of the Adams mansion, wanted to pay him the compliment of giving his house the highest valuation in town. Abigail protested, since a high valuation of course meant a high tax, and in the end the Adams home received a valuation 50 percent lower than that of the town's most expensive place.

"Do not be afraid."

Last fall and winter, when the Dow dipped below 7,000, hundreds of thousands of Americans panicked and got out of the market, only to kick themselves when stocks rallied during the spring and summer. Abigail would not have joined the panic. During the fall and winter of 1786-1787, Shays' Rebellion, a farmers' revolt in western Massachusetts, sent prices plummeting for federal bonds as well as for those issued by the state of Massachusetts. Abigail's investment adviser, her uncle Cotton Tufts, suggested that she get rid of her federal securities. On the contrary, she informed her uncle on Jan. 24, 1787, she and John wished to purchase another 210 pounds sterling worth of "congress Paper." "Do not be afraid," she wrote.

■■■

Finally, perhaps the best personal finance advice that Abigail's example can provide is more personal than financial. She knew well how to successfully mix money and marriage.

■■■

Keep a close eye on your spouse.

After Abigail joined her husband in Europe, John got in the habit of showing her the letters he wrote to his business agent in Massachusetts before mailing them. That's how Abigail discovered that John planned to purchase a notoriously unproductive farm near

See ON MONEY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

It should be against the law for the Legislature to break the law!

It's interesting how people see an issue from different perspectives and points of view. I refer to a comment in a local paper last Thursday quoting a CNMI legislator as "wondering where to get the money to pay the Retirement Fund."

The legislator was referring to the recent court ruling, which ordered the government to pay the Fund \$231 million and a 16 percent employer contribution rate—money that was illegally withheld from the Retirement Fund in the first place over a period of many years, to the extreme detriment to the future financial security of all members of the Fund.

My, my, my, Judge Govendo recommended where to get part of the money. The Legislature must now stop diverting money that should never have been the subject of legislative manipulation in the first place. I refer to 1 CMC section 8365 and the 30 percent hotel occupancy tax and the 20 percent alcohol container tax that by the Legislature's own law should have been transferred to the Fund when collected but was not. Part of the money the government owes can be obtained there and it should be calculated retroactively with compound interest due the Fund and applied for all the years the Fund was short-changed.

Well, I'll be a "monkey's uncle"—excuse me—the Legislature was budgeting money from the above source when in actual fact it wasn't within its right to do so. And wasn't this illegally diverted money used to add jobs to the payroll it otherwise couldn't afford? A payroll which—without the diversion described—it wouldn't otherwise have to meet. Any layoffs the

CNMI government now has to make is its own fault for using money it should have never used for such hiring practices in the first place. Wanting to place the blame on the Retirement Fund for any future layoffs is an attempt to deflect blame with a "cracked mirror." It won't work.

May I suggest that the Legislature pass a law that it "should be against the law for it break the law."

"They should have listened to us and resolved this issue before the judgment came out," the legislator is quoted as stating when referring to the Retirement Fund.

Excuse me a second time but the Legislature, past and present, doesn't have a good track record regarding the fair treatment of the Fund's members and is largely responsible for the fiscal mess the Fund is currently experiencing with respect to its rapidly diminishing investment portfolio.

One way to assist the Fund (and the population at large) is for the Legislature to get real with its own self-serving exorbitant expenditures and reduce their own cost of operation. A few years ago (and I assume it's still true, if not worse) a single island senator had the following annual budget:

- Salary, \$39,300;
- Transportation & office expense account, \$155,000;
- Committee chairmanship, \$22,000;
- Total: \$216,300 per year

With three senators from each district multiplied by four years in office, the total cost for the single island of Tinian was \$ 2.6 million

By WILLIAM H. STEWART

Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.



during their elected terms in office, assuming that each of the three chair a committee. I presume it's somewhat identical for Rota, not to mention Saipan. Mind you, this doesn't include the cost of the House of Representatives.

A senator serving as the chairperson of one committee would draw \$22,000 and, if serving as the chairperson of two committees, his or her "entitlement" would increase to \$44,000. This is in addition to a travel allowance of \$60,000.

So readers, you do the math.

A few years ago, legislative salaries on the mainland were: Florida, \$ 26,388 per annum; Maryland, \$29,700 per annum; Virginia, \$ 17,640 per annum; Oregon, \$1,092 per month, to cite only a few states. Judging from Commonwealth legislative standards, representatives in most other states with populations hundreds of times larger than the CNMI are vastly underpaid.

What's your opinion?

If you're going to rig an election, cheat big

By CARLOS LOZADA

(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Imagine you're an aspiring dictator looking to steal a national election by stuffing ballot boxes or making sure that a batch of votes—say, even in your opponent's hometown—simply disappears. Do you engineer a victory by a razor-thin margin, 51 to 49 percent or so, to make things look legit? Nope. If you're going to cheat, cheat big.

That's the lesson of a 2008 study by University of Chicago political scientist Alberto Simpser, who examined dubious elections from 1990 to 2007. From Armenia and Belarus to Nigeria and Zimbabwe, Simpser found that incumbents often aren't content to simply defeat their opponents and hold on to power for one more term—they want to trounce them.

In "Cheating Big: On the Logic of Electoral Corruption in Developing Countries," Simpser, a native of Mexico who grew up watching the ruling PRI rack up big electoral victories, argues that large-scale vote-rigging can yield big benefits beyond simple reelection. Massive victories "can discourage opponents from joining or supporting rival parties, from voting, or from participating in other ways," he writes. "It can motivate supporters as well."

ON MONEY

From Page 10

their own. By the time John posted the letter, she had talked him out of it.

Prevent your spouse from keeping a close eye on you.

One of Abigail's favorite techniques was the cover letter. Since John had no compunction about opening his wife's incoming mail but considered letters received by Abigail Junior to be sacrosanct, Abigail sometimes asked her correspondents to enclose their messages for her inside letters to her daughter.

If you fight about spending, find your own income.

During the late 1770s, Abigail was after John to buy her a new carriage. But he resisted, pointing out that the Revolutionary War had driven prices sky-high. Once Abigail developed her import business, she purchased the carriage primarily using her own profits, and there was not much John could say.

Share the credit.

Abigail never objected when John took credit for investment decisions that she had made. And she portrayed herself as the passive consumer of the investment advice she received from her uncle—though she actually managed her portfolio quite aggressively.

She accomplished all this by heeding "an old adage" she had once quoted to her husband while trying to enlist him in one of her speculative ventures: "Nothing venture nothing have."

Holton is the author of Unruly Americans and the Origins of the Constitution" and the forthcoming "Abigail Adams, A Life. He teaches at the University of Richmond. Author's e-mail: aholton@richmond.edu.

The idea is to win not just the current election, but future ones too. Even in elections in which incumbents held commanding pre-vote leads, the compulsion to win overwhelmingly is common—especially in "semi-democratic, semi-authoritarian" regimes, Simpser contends, "where multiple parties contest elections regularly ... but where the incumbent holds great advantages."

Which, come to think of it, sounds a little like Iran. So what does Simpser make of the June 12 election in that country, where the official announcement that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had

defeated Mir Hossein Mousavi by 63 to 33 percent sparked widespread protests and a government crackdown? Without passing judgment on whether fraud took place, Simpser thinks his logic holds up. "For a regime like Iran's with internal divisions, a weak economy and foreign enemies, a convincing victory would be very useful," he said.

Even Iran's supreme leader seemed to make that argument when he spoke out in defense of the official results: "If the difference was 100,000 or 500,000 or 1 million, well, one may say fraud could have happened. But how can one rig 11 million votes?"

Letter to the Editor

Making the NMI govt operate within its means

I am one of the retirees. I read Oscar Camacho's e-mail and it invigorated me to throw in my penny's worth of thoughts.

Briefly, substantial amounts of money can be saved by the government only if they bite the bullet and operate within the CNMI's means. It is a known fact that the economy of the CNMI over the past several years has been deteriorating and it is likely to continue. We used have over 30 licenses issued to garment factories. Today, we are down to zero. In 1997 tourist arrival reached in excess of 750,000. Since then arrivals have been on a downward slide and now we are struggling with 350,000 arrivals from Japan, Korea, and small numbers from China and Russia.

Our government used to collect taxes and fees in excess of \$250 million, not including formula grants and Covenant funds from the feds. Now resources have dropped to \$150 million, a decrease of \$100 million or 40 percent over the past 12 to 15 years. Yet our government expenditures remain constant and payroll remains at \$150 million plus. Please note the present payroll equals the annual resources. This tells me that the only thing anyone working for the government does is to punch in when they report to work in the morning, sit around for eight hours and punch out at 4:30pm. Nothing can be accomplished with no money for operations (other than federal CIP money and food stamp).

Our elected officials are fearful that if they will lose in the next election if they make the drastic move to reduce the size of our government. We in the business community are suffering in trying to make ends meet. Similarly, the Legislature as well as the Administration must face the music and downsize the size of our branches of government and work within our own means. Look at the number of suggestions that Oscar Camacho came up with and implement those corrective measures. Let's go to a part-time Legislature; reduce the number by formulating a law that would reduce the number of representatives at one representative for every 5,000 people. This will certainly reduce the number of representatives by a half. Let the Legislative Bureau do all the interim work and have the member of the Legislature meet 60 days a year, 30 days the first six

months and 30 the last six months of a year. No discretionary funding to the part-time Legislature thus drastically reducing the cost of operating the Legislature. Let the Bureau control the money given to the Legislature.

With the closure of the garment factories, the Administration can also proportionately reduce the number of employees and save substantial sum to pay its debts. The entire government used to operate with \$124 million. It can do it again and probably more efficiently.

Having been exposed to the inner working of the government for three years, I know this government can operate on a \$125 million resources. The truth of the matter is whether we like it or not, we have to operate within our means.

The business community is dishing out their hard-earned dollars to support this government through payment of taxes and fees. Yet I get the feeling that the government is looking at other ways to "gouge" the business in the Commonwealth to that they can maintain the level "luxury" that they are presently enjoying.

The next problem that the CNMI is facing is the rate of unemployment. This is a tough one and if we can truly justify the total manpower need of the CNMI, maybe, just maybe, we can eventually get ourselves out of the financial mess. The people of the CNMI are "land rich but money poor." We can whip this problem and reduce unemployment by luring investors to come to the CNMI to invest. To do that, eliminate Article 12 from our Constitution and let the local landowners have full say-so on their private lands. We have lost many prospective investors who want to invest in the CNMI because they can't own land. Article 12 is keeping us money-poor. There are many of us who are afraid that if we repeal Article 12, the investors will take away their land. THIS IS FAR FROM THE TRUTH. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SELL YOU LAND, NO ONE CAN FORCE YOU TO SELL. Article 12 is beginning to disqualify many Northern Marianas descent from owning lands they would inherit from their forefathers.

Once investors begin to establish in the CNMI, we will be able to create means by which our people may be employed. Federalization will enhance the availability of jobs that our own people can fill.

My final message to my colleagues (retirees): Let us strengthen our organization and unify and let us show our strength this coming election and elect only those who will help the retirees continue to receive our pension.

David M. Sablan
Capital Hill, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲80° ▼70°	▲80° ▼70°	▲80° ▼70°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲80 ▼75
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲84 ▼75
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲84 ▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲78 ▼75
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲78 ▼77
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲87 ▼75
Majuro	Cloudy	▲87 ▼77

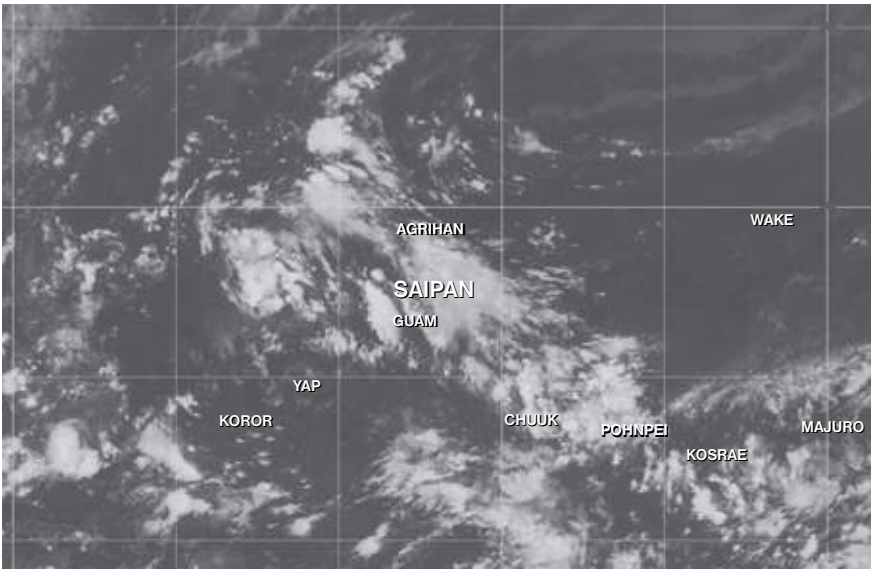
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲56 ▼48
Beijing	Hot	▲97 ▼73
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼77
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼75
London	Rain	▲68 ▼55
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲83 ▼62
Manila	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲56 ▼44
Miami	Cloudy	▲92 ▼78
New York	Thundershowers	▲83 ▼66
Osaka	Showers	▲84 ▼71
Paris	Showers	▲71 ▼53
Pusan	Rain	▲77 ▼71
Rome	Sunny	▲85 ▼63
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲69 ▼51
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲70 ▼54
Seoul	Showers	▲77 ▼64
Tokyo	Rain	▲82 ▼72
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼64

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:53 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
6:22 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:04 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
9:20 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 10:00AM, MONDAY, JULY 6, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level trough extends southward from 25N137E to 18N137E then eastward through an upper-level low centered at 17N155E to end beyond 19N180. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between 20N and 25N from 140E to 145E and over the Mariana Islands within 175 miles of a line extending from 22N131E to 11N151E. A monsoon trough runs east-northeastward from 8N130E to a weak circulation near Yap at 10N139E, then southeastward to end at EQ161E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring south of Chuuk, Yap and Kosrae or south of a line from 4N148E to 3N167E. A weak surface trough near Majuro extends northward from 5N172E to 10N171E. Convergence near and to the east of the trough is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between the equator and 10N from 170E to 179E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Wednesday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Friday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Saturday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:50 PM	5:25 AM
Wednesday	7:33 PM	6:17 AM
Thursday	8:13 PM	7:08 AM
Friday	8:51 PM	7:57 AM
Saturday	9:26 PM	8:45 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For pictures:**
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 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 3, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN C09598 3:15am 3:50am 5, 6 C09312 1:20pm 1:55pm 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 2:10am 2:40am 5, 6 C09312 12:10pm 12:40pm 6
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1, 7 via ROP C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5 C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09598 2:10am 3:50am 5, 6 via ROP C09316 2:20am 3:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:20am 11:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C09312 12:10pm 1:55pm 6 via ROP C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN NW76 10:00am 2:35pm Daily NW77 6:35pm 1:40am+1 Daily via NGO NW100 8:45pm 1:20am+1 Daily
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SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1, 4, 6	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:55pm 2:20am+1 3, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN NW77 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
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SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 5	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 4, 7
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SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am 1, 4, 6 via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 3, 5, 7 via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
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SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
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SAIPAN-MANILA OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/701 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/893 4:30am 8:50am 7 via GUM C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA-SAIPAN C0894/9604 10:00am 5:50pm 6 via GUM OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM OZ704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
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SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
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Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



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Business

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Harvard pres.: School has tough choices in decline

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Drew Gilpin Faust started as Harvard's president when the university's prosperity seemed limitless. With its ballooning wealth, Harvard planned almost frenzied growth, from a building boom into Boston to vast increases in student financial aid. Billions of lost endowment dollars later, though, Faust faces a much different reality. "We can't have chocolate and vanilla and strawberry. We have to decide which one," she said. It's a question few at Harvard expected Faust to be forced to answer in the infancy of her presidency. Her appointment in 2007 was hailed as a historic turning point for the 373-year-old university. Faust, then the dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and a Civil War scholar, would be the first woman to step into the country's most high-profile presidency and appeared perfectly suited to cool tensions within the faculty after the controversial five-year tenure of Lawrence Summers.

Oil plunges to near \$65 on fears recovery may lag

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices plunged to near \$65 a barrel Monday in Asia as dismal unemployment figures from the U.S. and Europe last week sparked investor concern about a nascent economic recovery. Benchmark crude for August delivery fell \$1.63 to \$65.10 a barrel by midday Singapore time, after earlier dropping as low as \$64.65, in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It last settled on Thursday at \$66.73. Trading was closed in the U.S. on Friday for the Independence Day holiday.

Oil has tumbled from an eight-month high above \$73 a barrel last week after gloomy U.S. consumer confidence and jobs numbers fueled doubts about a rally that has doubled the price of crude since March.

In Philly schools, most students get a free lunch

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—For students at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School, there is such a thing as a free lunch—and a free breakfast, too. With no strings attached. The Philadelphia school district's unique program provides free food for all children in schools with a high percentage of low-income students, dispensing with the cumbersome forms parents must fill out elsewhere to qualify their kids for free meals. Although federal officials recently threatened to kill this paperless model, other cities are looking to replicate it. Food service directors say it eliminates the costly bureaucracy that both deters needy families from applying for subsidized meals and stigmatizes those who do complete the forms.

Bankruptcy judge OKs GM sale plan

NEW YORK (AP)—A bankruptcy judge said late Sunday that General Motors Corp. can sell the bulk of its assets to a new company, clearing the way for the automaker to quickly emerge from bankruptcy protection.

Federal Judge Robert Gerber ruled that the sale is needed to avoid "immediate and irreparable harm" to GM and is in the best interests of both the automaker and its creditors.

The decision came after a three-day hearing that wrapped up Thursday, during which GM and government officials urged a quick approval of the sale, saying it was needed to keep the automaker from selling itself off piece by piece.

But attorneys for some of GM's bondholders, consumer groups and individuals with lawsuits against the company argued in court for its rejection, saying that their needs were being pushed aside in favor of the interests of GM and the government.

It was unclear early Monday if any of those groups planned to appeal Gerber's decision. Last month, a group of bondholders and others took their objections to Chrysler LLC's sale plan all the way to the Supreme Court, delaying the Auburn Hills, Mich.-based automaker's exit from bankruptcy protection.

GM's government-backed plan for a quick exit from Chapter 11 hinges on the sale, which will allow the automaker to leave behind many of its costs and liabilities. The Treasury Department has vowed to cut off funding to GM if the sale doesn't go through by July 10.

The Detroit car maker's Chapter 11 filing on June 1 was the fourth-largest in U.S. history.

GM will leave bankruptcy court with significantly reduced debt and labor costs, as well as fewer dealerships and brands. But it's still operating in an environment where fewer Americans are buying cars. At the current pace, automakers will sell around 9.7 million

vehicles this year. That's a huge reduction from sales of more than 16 million vehicles as recently as 2007.

In June, the automaker captured 20.3 percent of the U.S. market. GM has estimated that it can maintain a market

share between 15 and 17 percent, reflecting its plan to sell off three brands and end its Pontiac line.

GM has several new cars coming to market next year, including the Chevrolet Volt, a plug-in hybrid electric car. The Volt

might be a promising vehicle, but with an expected \$40,000 price tag it might only be a niche player, said James E. Schrager, clinical professor of entrepreneurship and strategy at the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business.



A pickup truck moves by the main entrance to the General Motors plant in Doraville, Ga. in this November 21, 2005 file photo.

Chrysler names remaining directors to new board

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—Chrysler Group LLC on Sunday announced the remaining members of its new board of directors, a group that includes a former CEO of Northwest Airlines, investment bankers and top officials of the Italian automaker Fiat Group SpA.

Chrysler, which emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy on June 11 under a new partnership with Fiat, said it expects to hold the first meeting of the nine-member board on July 29.

Serving as directors will be Douglas Steenland, who served as Northwest's CEO from 2004 until it was

bought out by Delta Air Lines in 2008; George Gosbee, CEO of Tristone Capital Inc.; Scott Stuart, founding partner of Sageview Capital LLC; Ronald Thompson, board chairman of the Trustees for Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association (TIAA); and Stephen Wolf, chairman of R.R. Donnelly & Sons Co.

The automaker had already disclosed that former Borden Chemical and Duracell Chairman C. Robert Kidder will serve as chairman. The United Auto Workers union, which has a large stake in the new Chrysler, previously named former Michigan governor

James J. Blanchard to the board.

Sergio Marchionne, the CEO of Fiat and the revamped Chrysler, also is on the board, along with Alfredo Altavilla, head of Fiat's powertrain technologies unit and a senior vice president in Fiat's autos division.

Chrysler emerged from bankruptcy protection after just 42 days, cleansed of much of its debt and labor costs. But with sales down 46 percent from the first half of last year—a year in which Chrysler lost \$8 billion—the company faces a huge challenge to make money again under its new Italian owner.

Biden predicts more jobs because of stimulus money

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration "misread" the depth of the economic troubles it inherited and still expects more new jobs in the long term as the spending pace from the \$787 billion stimulus plan quickens, Vice President Joe Biden said.

Republican congressional leaders expressed disappointment about the impact of stimulus spending. "I'm very skeptical that the spending binge that we're on is going to produce much good and, even if it does, anytime soon," Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said in a statement Sunday.

"I think the economy is just as likely to begin to recover on its own, wholly aside from this, before much of this has an impact."

Biden, in an interview that aired on ABC's "This Week," said the 9.5 percent unemployment rate is "much too high." The administration had predicted unemployment would stay below 8 percent with its stimulus plan.

"The figures we worked off of in January were the consensus figures and most of the blue chip indexes

out there," Biden said. "We misread how bad the economy was, but we are now only about 120 days into the recovery package."

He cited the economic conditions inherited from the Bush administration. "It's now our responsibility. So the second question becomes ... is it the right

package given the circumstances we're in? And we believe it is the right package given the circumstances we're in."

While Biden argued that more jobs will be created in the coming months, House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio said the GOP had wanted the bill to focus on small businesses

and helping people keep more of what they earned.

"This was supposed to be about jobs, jobs and jobs. And the fact is it turned into nothing more than spending, spending and more spending on a lot of big government bureaucracy," Boehner said.

Investors' focus shifts to 2Q earnings reports

NEW YORK (AP)—Investors, whose optimism was recently shaken by surprisingly weak economic data, are now hoping companies can provide some clues about a recovery.

Wall Street's focus this week shifts from economic reports to corporate earnings announcements and forecasts for the rest of the year. After investors were rattled last week by the latest consumer and employment data, there is growing uncertainty in the market about how strong the second half of the year will be.

Aluminum maker Alcoa Inc., the first of the 30 companies that make up the Dow Jones industrials to report

second-quarter results, opens earnings season on Wednesday. Hundreds of other corporations will issue their reports during the next four weeks.

"From this point on, we're going to start talking a lot more about how the second quarter was and that is going to be the biggest market driver," said Scott Colyer, chief executive of Advisors Asset Management in Monument, Colo. "What we want to see is continued recovery."

Investor optimism has been tested by an increasing number of economic reports that show the recession is still taking a toll on businesses and consumers. Two of the

biggest disappointments came last week, when the Conference Board said consumer confidence sagged last month, and the Labor Department reported that employers cut more jobs than expected.

The reports have investors questioning whether the market's spring rally—in which the Standard & Poor's 500 index soared nearly 40 percent from 12-year lows in three months—was justified. That rally was driven by a string of not-so-bad data and the belief that the economy's slide was slowing. Now investors are worried the economy's recovery won't be as quick and strong as hoped.

Nation

Walt Disney World monorail crash kills employee

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—Two monorail trains crashed early Sunday morning in the Magic Kingdom section of Walt Disney World, killing one train's operator, emergency officials said.

Disney said it was the first fatal crash in the monorail's 38-year history in the park.

The transit system, which shuttles thousands of visitors around the sprawling resort each day, was shut down while authorities investigated the holiday weekend wreck.

The monorail operator died at the scene of the crash, which happened around 2 a.m., said Bo Jones, deputy chief for Reedy Creek Fire Department. The other train operator was uninjured, but was taken to a hospital because he was emotionally shaken. Jones said five park guests were treated at the scene, though the Orange County Sheriff's office said six were treated.

"To see the accident, to see the scene of what had happened and the fact that there was a life that was lost, it was very sad. It was very somber," Jones said.

Disney's senior spokesman Michael Griffin identified the driver as 21-year-old Austin Wuennenberg. Griffin would not discuss how long Wuen-

nenberg had been with Disney or the circumstances surrounding the crash. Disney officials also declined to discuss how the monorail system operates.

"They are extremely rare," Griffin said of accidents at the park. "The safety of our guests and cast are a top priority above all else."

It is unclear what caused the crash, Jones said. Orange County Sheriff's officials are investigating.

A spokeswoman for Stetson University in nearby DeLand confirmed that Wuennenberg was a student at the school. A woman standing in front of Wuennenberg's home in Kissimmee declined to comment Sunday afternoon and directed questions to Disney officials, saying the family wanted "private time to grieve."

One of Wuennenberg's former Stetson classmates, Brandon Ross, said the 21-year-old had scheduled his classes around his Disney job and took precautions if he was working a night shift. Ross said his friend would make the hour-long drive from DeLand to the Orlando area the day before his shift so he wouldn't be tired when he operated the train.

"He seemed to be a pretty safe



A monorail that was parked and idle, rests on the track outside the EPCOT theme park at Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Sunday, July 5, 2009.

person," said Ross, 22. "He's not reckless at all."

Wuennenberg studied computer science, said Ross, who sometimes asked for his help on school projects and called him smart and talented. "He was really good with computers."

Jones said the crash happened at the park's ticket and transportation center. About a dozen guards

wearing blue Disney security uniforms guarded the monorail station Sunday morning and prevented visitors from approaching.

Griffin would not comment on a video posted on the Web site of Orlando TV station WKMG. The clip, apparently shot by a guest at the park, shows a man pounding on the door to the driver's compartment after the crash.

"This is such a close-knit community," Griffin said. "Our hearts go out to Austin's family. It's a sad day here."

Catherine McKenna, 45, and her family were visiting the theme park from Ireland. The family had planned to use the monorail to travel to the Magic Kingdom last Friday but said they were told the train was broken. They

took a ferry but returned on the monorail later that day.

"It's very sad," McKenna said. "You would be very afraid to use it again."

Disney spokeswoman Zoraya Suarez said the park had boosted other forms of transport—such as ferries, boats and buses—for visitors Sunday.

"Our guests are getting around fine," Suarez added.

Seventeen-year-old Ethan Meus, visiting from Dubuque, Iowa, said he and his family took the monorail to dinner at a resort hotel Saturday night. Meus watched the Magic Kingdom fireworks from the monorail on the way back to his hotel and said he didn't notice any problems with the train.

"It's pretty shocking to hear that a driver was killed," Meus said. "You would think it would be so safe," said 20-year-old Lauren Shobottom, who was visiting the park from London. "You don't expect it on holiday, do you?"

Griffin issued a statement offering condolences to the employee's family and saying the monorail was closed.

"It's a bit shocking," said 22-year-old Danielle Williams, of London. "Disney seems so perfect."

Observers: Palin resignation cuts losses in Alaska

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—Ever since Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin returned from the presidential campaign trail, many Alaskans felt her heart wasn't in the job.

Lawmakers complained she didn't take an interest in the state's politics, and she limited her access to Alaska's media. One lawmaker quipped after her state of the state address in January that the only eye contact she made in the legislative chamber was with the television camera.

In Alaska, Palin has become a polarizing figure, and the focus of multiple ethics complaints filed against her with the state personnel board. She has taken a beating from Senate Democrats over many of her recent appointments, including an attorney general candidate who became the first Cabinet appointment ever rejected by the Alaska Legislature.

And things weren't likely to improve, if she stayed in office. She faces a potential veto override of nearly \$29 million in federal stimulus funds for energy efficiency programs. She rejected the funds, fearing there were strings attached to the money that could bind the state to federal building mandates. Legislators said they could find no such strings.

Obama seeks new start in sagging US-Russia ties

MOSCOW (AP)—Presidents Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev end a seven-year hiatus in U.S.-Russian summitry on Monday, with each declaring his determination to further cut nuclear arsenals and repair a badly damaged relationship.

Both sides appear to want to use progress on arms control as a pathway to possible agreement on trickier issues, including Iran and Georgia, the tiny former Soviet republic. Those difficulties and others have soured a promising linkage in the first years after the Cold War and pushed ties between Moscow and Washington to depths unseen in more than two decades.

In advance of Obama's depar-

ture Sunday, a White House official told reporters the presidents expect to announce progress on negotiations that could lead to a treaty to replace the START I agreement, which expires Dec. 5.

More broadly, the U.S. wants to use the summit to overhaul the U.S.-Russian relationship.

"It's not, in our view, a zero-sum game, that if it's two points for Russia it's negative two for us, but there are ways that we can cooperate to advance our interests and, at the same time, do things with the Russians that are good for them as well," Obama's top assistant on Russia, Michael McFaul, said in a presummit briefing.

Medvedev said in an Inter-

net address that the two powers "need new, common, mutually beneficial projects in business, science and culture. He added, "I hope that this sincere desire to open a new chapter in Russian-American cooperation will be brought into fruition."

Two things appear certain:

■ The Russians have said they will agree to allow the United States to use their territory and air space to move munitions and arms to U.S. and NATO forces fighting Taliban Islamic extremists in Afghanistan. The Kremlin announced the deal days before the summit as a sweetener for Obama.

■ A directive for negotiators to work toward a START I replacement. Both sides are agreed in principle to cut warheads from more than 2,000 each to as low as 1,500 apiece.

Holiday fireworks accidents kill 5 workers

OCRACOKE, N.C. (AP)—Five people working on Independence Day fireworks shows were killed by explosions, four of them by a single blast that rocked this remote village on the Outer Banks.

The fifth died after an explosion at a fireworks show in Pennsylvania, police said.

In another holiday accident, a pedestrian bridge collapsed in Indiana as fans were leaving

a fireworks show, injuring 25 people. Authorities said Sunday the crowd had overloaded the bridge.

The blast at Ocracoke came as workers were unloading fireworks Saturday from a truck at the Anchorage Marina, shaking homes and businesses across the southern end of Ocracoke Island and rattling residents and tourists.

Earl Woodham, a spokesman for the Bureau of Alcohol,

Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, said agents determined the cause was accidental. ATF will not investigate further, but a workplace safety agency such as the state Labor Department likely will try to find the specific cause, he said.

Dock master Robert Raborn was about 200 yards away from the truck and said the explosion was one of the loudest things he had ever heard.

ACROSS THE NATION

Hundreds at funerals for 2 victims of SC killings

GAFFNEY, S.C. (AP)—Hundreds of mourners thronged Sunday's funeral services for an elderly mother and her daughter, two of five victims of a suspected serial killer whose crime spree has terrorized this rural South Carolina community for more than a week. Rites were held at First Baptist Church in Gaffney for 50-year-old Gena Linder Parker and her 83-year-old mother, Hazel Linder, station WSPA-TV said. Law enforcement officers provided security for the family and mourners. The killings began a week ago Saturday when the wife of 63-year-old peach farmer Kline Cash found her husband shot dead in their rural home. Then on Wednesday, relatives discovered the bodies of Linder and Parker, both bound and shot to death in a separate attack at Linder's home.

Former DC Mayor Barry charged with stalking

WASHINGTON (AP)—Police say former Washington Mayor Marion Barry has been arrested and charged with stalking a woman. The United States Park Police said Barry, a current D.C. Council member, was arrested Saturday in Washington after a woman flagged down an officer and complained Barry was stalking her. Barry was charged with misdemeanor stalking and released. Barry's spokeswoman, Natalie Williams, said Sunday that the accusation was "baseless." She says Barry plans to fight the charge and said the accuser is a 40-year-old woman Barry had helped financially.

Mass. mom accused of withholding cancer meds

SALEM, Mass. (AP)—A woman accused of withholding cancer treatment from her autistic son has been charged with attempted murder. Kristen LaBrie is scheduled to appear in Salem Superior Court on Monday on charges of attempted murder, child endangerment and permitting bodily injury to a disabled person. LaBrie's son, Jeremy, was 9 when he died in March. He had been diagnosed with leukemia in 2006. Prosecutors say LaBrie canceled at least a dozen appointments for chemotherapy treatment and did not fill at least half the prescriptions her son had been given.

Asia

Report: NKorean launches maybe included new Scud

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A barrage of ballistic missiles that North Korea test-fired over the weekend may have included a new type of Scud missile with an extended range and improved accuracy that poses a threat to Japan, a South Korean newspaper reported Monday.

Pyeongyang launched seven missiles into waters off its east coast Saturday in a show of force that defied U.N. resolu-

tions and drew international condemnation.

On Monday, South Korea's mass-circulation Chosun Ilbo newspaper reported the launches were believed to have included three Scud-ER missiles with a range of up to 620 miles (1,000 kilometers).

The paper said the Scud-ER has a longer range and better accuracy compared with previous Scud series so is "par-

ticularly a threat to Japan."

Tokyo is about 720 miles (1,160 kilometers) from the base on North Korea's east coast from where the missiles were fired. Some other parts of Japan are closer, well within the range of a Scud-ER.

Scuds are single stage, liquid-fueled missiles, originally developed in the former Soviet Union, and generally known for poor accuracy. Ballistic missile

programs in Pakistan and Iran were built on Scud technology.

The Chosun Ilbo, citing a government source it did not name, said the other four missiles were two Scud-C missiles with a range of 310 miles (500 kilometers) and two medium-range Rodong missiles that can travel up to 810 miles (1,300 kilometers).

Five of the seven missiles flew about 260 miles (420 kilo-

meters) from an eastern coastal launch site and landed in one area, meaning their accuracy has improved, the paper said.

South Korea's Defense Ministry said it could not confirm the report, saying details of the launches were still under investigation.

One Defense Ministry official told The Associated Press on Sunday that the missiles appeared to have traveled

about 250 miles (400 kilometers), meaning that key government and military facilities in South Korea were within range. The official spoke on condition of anonymity citing department policy.

North Korea has long-range missiles as well. The Taepodong-2 has a potential range of more than 4,100 miles (6,700 kilometers), putting Alaska within striking distance.

China state media says 140 killed in riots in west

URUMQI, China (AP)—Violence in the capital of China's volatile Xinjiang region killed 140 people and injured 828, an official said Monday, following rioting by members of a Muslim ethnic group and a police crackdown on their demonstrations.

The official toll makes the unrest the deadliest single incident of unrest in Xinjiang in recent decades.

The violence in Urumqi apparently happened after a peaceful protest Sunday of about 1,000 to 3,000 people spun out of control, with rioters overturning barricades, attacking vehicles and houses, and clashing with police.

Uigher exile groups said the violence started only after police began violently cracking down on the peaceful protest.

Wu Nong, director of the news office of the Xinjiang

provincial government, said more than 260 vehicles were attacked or set on fire and 203 houses were damaged. He said 140 people were killed and 828 injured in the violence.

The official Xinhua News Agency also said 140 people died and that the death toll "was still climbing."

Tensions between Uighurs and the majority Han Chinese are never far from the surface in Xinjiang, China's vast Central Asian buffer province, where militant Uighurs have waged sporadic, violent separatist campaign. The overwhelming majority of Urumqi's 2.3 million people are Han Chinese.

State television aired footage that showed protesters attacking and kicking people on the ground. Other people sat dazed with blood pouring down their faces.

Mobile phone service pro-



In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, a shop was destroyed on Sunday, July 5, 2009 in Tianchi Street in Urumqi, capital of China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Nearly 1,000 protesters from a Muslim ethnic group rioted in China's far west, overturning barricades, attacking bystanders and clashing with police in violence that killed at least three people, including a policeman, state media and witnesses said.

vided by at least one company was cut Monday to stop people from organizing further action in Xinjiang.

The protest started Sunday with demonstrators demanding a probe into a fight between Uighurs and Han Chinese workers at a southern China factory last month. Accounts differed over what happened next in Urumqi, but the violence seemed to have started when a crowd of protesters—who started out peaceful—refused to disperse.

Uigher exile groups said the violence started when Chinese security forces cracked down on the peaceful protest.

"We are extremely saddened by the heavy-handed use of force by the Chinese security forces against the peaceful demonstrators," said Alim Seytoff, vice president of the Washington-based Uyghur American Association.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Suicide attack outside NATO base in Kandahar

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide car bomber struck early Monday outside the main NATO base in southern Afghanistan, killing two civilians and wounding 14 other people, as U.S. Marines pressed a major anti-Taliban offensive in a neighboring province. The bomber blew himself up near the gates of Kandahar Airfield, said Gen. Sher Mohammad Zazai, the top military commander for southern Afghanistan. Those wounded included 12 civilians and two Afghan soldiers, Zazai said. Initially police said four soldiers were wounded.

22 die in Vietnam landslides, floods

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—The government says the death toll from landslides and floods in Vietnam's mountainous north has risen to 22. Thirteen other people are still missing after the heavy rains that struck on Friday night. The Central Committee for Floods and Storms Control said on its Web site Monday that authorities have recovered seven more bodies bringing the toll to 22. The committee said the landslides and floods destroyed or damaged more than 500 houses and hundreds of acres (hectares) of rice fields. Vietnam is prone to floods and storms which kill hundreds of people each year.

Opposition urges Thai foreign minister to resign

BANGKOK (AP)—Opposition members in Thailand's Parliament called Monday for the resignation of the foreign minister after police filed charges against him for alleged involvement in demonstrations that climaxed with the seizure of Bangkok's airports last year. Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya and 35 other leaders of the "Yellow Shirt" movement face criminal charges including illegal assembly, attempts to stir unrest, and breaches of aviation law and terrorism for the eight-day siege of Bangkok's two airports in November and December. They were summoned to report to police on July 16, said Police Lt. Gen. Wuthi Puavej.

Military tags 'rogue' MILF in Cotabato blast

By JOCELYN UY
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Sunday pointed to rogue fighters of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front as responsible for the bombing near a cathedral in Cotabato City that killed four people and wounded scores others.

The bombing bore the signature of the MILF as the explosive, believed to be a 60-millimeter or 81-millimeter mortar ammunition, was "command-detonated," AFP spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Romeo Brawner Jr. said.

But Sunday's attack had no

connection with the series of bomb-related incidents in Metro Manila, which the military earlier blamed on two main groups with "political ambitions" and a "grand scheme" to destabilize the government, Brawner said.

"Its plain terrorism by the special operations group of the MILF and we condemn this attack on innocent civilians," Brawner told the Philippine Daily Inquirer (parent company of INQUIRER.net) by phone Sunday.

The military's official count as of press time showed that there were four fatalities in the bombing and 45 people injured.

One of the three killed in the incident was an Army militiaman while the wounded

included four other militiamen and two soldiers, said Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Arnulfo Burgos from Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City.

Brawner said there was a possibility that the rogue Moro fighters had deliberately targeted the troops from the 38th Infantry Battalion on board an Isuzu Elf, who happened to pass by the bomb site.

"We cannot say that this is a religious war. If they deliberately targeted the church, they could have placed it inside," Brawner pointed out.

The bombing in Cotabato City occurred almost 14 hours after an explosion rocked downtown Datu Piang in Maguindanao

province on Saturday, wounding three civilians.

The MILF was responsible for both explosions, said Col. Jonathan Ponce, spokesperson of the 6th Infantry Division.

"Both bombings are connected because the bombs had an MILF signature...they have the capability to make these improvised explosive devices as they have been trained by foreign bombers, by the Jemaah Islamiyah," said Ponce.

But in its website, the MILF hinted that the military was behind the bombing in Datu Piang as part of its effort to turn Moro people against each other and make the MILF responsible for the disorder in the area.

Taiwan islands blossom as China tensions ebb

MATSU, Taiwan (AP)—On this front line of the standoff between China and Taiwan, Cold War tensions are being trumped by the Chinese crested tern.

Taiwan has cut back its annual military exercises on the islands of Matsu, just off the mainland Chinese coast, to give the birds some peace during their breeding season.

It's just one of many vivid signs that China and Taiwan

have found a peace of sorts after decades of angry confrontation. Another indication is the tourists from Taiwan and China who pour into Matsu and discover that despite 60 years of separation and lots of mutually hostile propaganda, they get along fine.

Matsu, a cluster of 36 tiny islands, was regularly shelled in the 1950s and 1960s from the Chinese mainland just a few miles away. Now, with tensions at their lowest

since China went communist in 1949 and Taiwan broke away to join the Western camp, those days are a distant memory.

Taiwan used to designate the islands as part of its "Great Wall over the Taiwan Strait," dedicated to fending off a Chinese attack, and some of the islands, one of them just a kilometer (half a mile) from the Chinese coast, have armed troops, missile defenses and mock battles.

But in the benign language of today, government tourist brochures portray Matsu as "a string of loosened pearls."

Since 2001, islanders and their immediate Chinese neighbors have been able to take the 90-minute boat ride between the Chinese port of Mawei and the Matsu town of Nankan, allowing people with the same ancestry to reunite after generations of estrangement.

World

From Haiti, a surprise: good news about AIDS

BLANCHARD, Haiti (AP)—When Micheline Leon was diagnosed with HIV, her parents told her they would fit her for a coffin.

Fifteen years later, she walks around her two-room concrete house on Haiti's central plateau, watching her four children play under the plantain trees. She looks healthy, her belly amply filling a gray, secondhand T-shirt. Her three sons and one daughter were born after she was diagnosed. None has the virus.

"I'm not sick," she explained patiently on a recent afternoon. "People call me sick but I'm not. I'm infected."

In many ways the 35-year-old mother's story is Haiti's too. In the early 1980s, when the strange and terrifying disease showed up in the U.S. among migrants who had escaped Haiti's dictatorship, experts thought it could wipe out a third of the country's population.

Instead, Haiti's HIV infection rate stayed in the single digits, then plummeted.

In a wide range of interviews with doctors, patients, public health experts and others, The



In this June 24, 2009 photo, Marie Lourdes Pierre, left, a patient with HIV/AIDS, sits at her house next to her "accompagnateur", Obner Saint Valain, a neighbor who helps her manage her medicine regimen, in Blanchard, central Haiti.

Associated Press found that Haiti's success in the face of chronic political and social turmoil came because organizations cooperated and tailored programs to the country's specific challenges.

Much of the credit went to two pioneering nonprofit groups, Boston-based Partners in Health and Port-au-Prince's GHESKIO, widely considered to be the world's oldest AIDS clinic.

"The Haitian AIDS commu-

nity feels like they're out in front of everyone else on this, and pretty much they are," said Judith Timyan, senior HIV/AIDS adviser for the U.S. Agency for International Development in Haiti. "They really do some of

the best work in the world."

Researchers say the number of suffers was initially lessened by closing private blood banks, and statistically by high mortality rates—an untreated AIDS sufferer in Haiti lives eight fewer years than an untreated American.

Well-coordinated use of AIDS drugs, education and behavioral changes such as increased condom use have kept the disease from surging back, at least for now.

Statistics are notoriously unreliable in this country of poverty and lack of infrastructure. The most telling data would be the number of new infections in a given year, but researchers say such a precise count is impossible.

Next best is to estimate the infected as a percentage of the population. From 1993 to 2003, only pregnant women were tested, and their rate of infection dropped from 6.2 percent to 3.1 percent, according to GHESKIO and national health surveys.

Researchers now test men and women aged 15 to 49, and the official rate is 2.2 percent, according to UNAIDS.

WORLD BRIEFS

Somali fighting kills at least 12 in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Heavy shelling between Somali rebels and government forces near the presidential palace killed at least 12 people on Sunday, witnesses said, and the prime minister looked for help from more African Union peacekeepers. Prime minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Shar-marke said more AU troops were expected soon to back his forces but gave no further details Sunday. The government and rebels who want to install an Islamic state in the east African country blamed each other for instigating the violence. More than 4,000 African Union peacekeepers are here, but they come under regular attack and are generally confined to protecting government installations.

Submarine detects signal from Yemenia black boxes

PARIS (AP)—A submarine scouring the Indian Ocean on Sunday detected the signal beacons of the two black boxes from a Yemenia Airways flight that crashed off the Comoros Islands, the French aviation agency said. Plans were under way to retrieve the boxes within days, an official from Yemen said. A 12-year-old girl, Bahia Bakari, who clung to debris for up to 13 hours, is the only known survivor of Tuesday's crash, which killed 152 people flying from Paris to Moroni, the capital of the Comoros, via San'a in Yemen.

Zimbabwe vows to pull troops out of diamond fields

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabwe has promised to withdraw its soldiers from diamond fields in the east, an official newspaper reported Sunday—a week after a rights group alleged the military was committing killings and abuses in the area. The move appeared to be an attempt to diffuse criticism over the military's takeover of the Marange diamond fields and ensure that Zimbabwe's precious stones won't be tainted with the "blood diamond" label by activists, which would reduce their value. The Ministry of Mines denied last month's report by Human Rights Watch that said troops had killed more than 200 people at the Marange diamond fields while forcing children to search for diamonds and beating villagers who got in the way.

Iran: British-Greek reporter held for weeks freed

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran said Sunday it has released a British-Greek journalist detained for two weeks during its postelection crackdown as opposition forces pressing their claims of fraud called for parliament to dismiss President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The freelance reporter for The Washington Times was accused Sunday of "illegal activities" during the protests that followed the June 12 presidential election. He was believed to be the only journalist without Iranian citizenship among the hundreds of journalists, bloggers and activists detained. Greece's Foreign Ministry confirmed his release and said he would leave Iran "within the day."

The government's crackdown has quelled days of deadly street unrest, but authorities are still grappling with how to handle the fallout from an election that has exposed divisions in both the streets and in the clerical leadership. The opposition has claimed widespread election fraud and claims that opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi is the true winner, not Ahmadinejad.

Iran has released most of those it detained after the election, and authorities are moving ahead with legal action against some of those still in custody, including an Iranian who works at the British Embassy.

Honduras slides toward greater instability

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Already volatile Honduras slid toward greater instability after soldiers blocked an airport runway to keep ousted President Manuel Zelaya from returning, and protests that had remained largely peaceful yielded their first death.

Police and soldiers blanketed the streets of the capital overnight Monday—enforcing a sunset-to-sunrise curfew with batons and metal poles.

The extended curfew added to the tension after a turbulent Sunday that saw soldiers clash with thousands of Zelaya backers who massed at the airport in hopes of welcoming home their deposed leader.

Zelaya's plane, on loan from Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, arrived to find the runway blocked by military

vehicles and soldiers under the command of the government that has ruled this Central American country since Zelaya's ouster last weekend.

His Venezuelan pilots circled around the airport and decided not to risk a crash.

Zelaya instead headed for El Salvador, and vowed to try again Monday or Tuesday in his high-stakes effort to return to power in a country where all branches of government have lined up against him.

"I call on the Armed Forces of Honduras to lower their rifles," he said late Sunday at a news conference, flanked by the presidents of El Salvador, Argentina, Paraguay and Ecuador, and the secretary-general of the Organization of American States, Jose Miguel Insulza, who flew there from Washington.

"I am risking myself personally to resolve the problems without violence," said Zelaya, who planned to fly later to Nicaragua. He urged the United Nations, the OAS, the United States and European countries to "do something with this repressive regime."

Insulza said he "is open to continuing all appropriate diplomatic overtures to obtain our objective."

But interim Honduran President Roberto Micheletti said he won't negotiate until "things return to normal."

"We will be here until the country calms down," Micheletti said. "We are the authentic representatives of the people."

Clashes broke out Sunday afternoon between police and soldiers and the huge crowd of Zelaya supporters surround-

ing Tegucigalpa's international airport. At least one man was killed—shot in the head from inside the airport as people tried to break through a security fence, according to an Associated Press photographer at the scene. At least 30 people were treated for injuries, the Red Cross said, after security forces fired warning shots and tear gas.

When Zelaya's plane was turned away, his supporters began chanting "We want blue helmets!"—a reference to U.N. peacekeepers.

Karin Antunez, 27, was in tears.

"We're scared. We feel sad because these coup soldiers won't let Mel return, but we're not going to back down," she said. "We're the people and we're going to keep marching so that our president comes home."

Iraqis skeptical about significance of US pullback

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqis are skeptical that much will change after last week's pullback of U.S. combat troops from Baghdad and other cities, a sentiment not shared by their government.

The government declared the June 30 pullback National Sovereignty Day and celebrated it with a military parade and noisy street celebrations by Iraqi soldiers and police. But there was no spontaneous outpouring of joy by Iraqis since many of them did not see the move as significant, with some

130,000 U.S. troops remaining in the country.

"The celebrations were contrived, almost like a farce," said Salman Hassan, who runs an electrical supplies store in eastern Baghdad. "The Americans did not go anywhere far, they are on the outskirts of our cities."

Like many others in Baghdad, Hassan says he will not remember the Americans kindly. But, ironically, he says he finds comfort in the fact that the Americans remain close.

"Our forces are not ready yet to take sole responsibility. They need two more years to be ready to defend us."

The withdrawal from the cities, which was completed Tuesday, is part of a U.S.-Iraqi security pact that lays the ground for a full U.S. withdrawal by the end of 2011.

Most troops pulled back to bases outside urban areas, but the U.S. military left an undisclosed number behind to train and advise the Iraqis. The U.S. military has refused to reveal

their number, fearful of feeding any criticism that the Americans aren't honoring the pact or casting doubt on the ability of the Iraqis to handle security alone.

The ambivalence felt by most Iraqis over the 2003 U.S.-led invasion appears to have been duplicated over the departure of the Americans from the cities. Many are happy to see them go, yet they are not convinced their army and police are ready to protect them as well as maintain the security gains made over the past two years.

Overdrive

VW minivan struggles to top its Chrysler cousins

By **WARREN BROWN**
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

CORNWALL, N.Y.—It is the only Chrysler minivan in North America with a Volkswagen badge—the 2009 Volkswagen Routan.

Other than that, it is difficult to understand why anyone would choose the Routan over the minivans from which it is derived—the Dodge Grand Caravan and Chrysler Town & Country, produced in Windsor, Ontario.

Volkswagen is betting that Routan buyers will swoon over the supposed superiority of German engineering, which is why it is marketing the Routan in the United States with the slogans, “the only minivan in America with German engineering” and a “suspension engineered for the autobahn.”

There are two big problems with those pitches. The first is that there are few highways in the United States that come close to the uniformly smooth, well-maintained surfaces of Germany’s autobahn. The second is that what little “German engineering” exists in the Routan is practically invisible—hard to decipher by sight, vehicle performance or feel.

After nearly 800 miles behind the wheel of the VW Routan SE, I and my vehicle evaluation crew—my wife, Mary Anne;

It is the only Chrysler minivan in North America with a Volkswagen badge—the 2009 Volkswagen Routan.



and my *Washington Post* associate for vehicle evaluations, Ria Manglapus—concluded that the Routan drives, handles and feels like, well, the Dodge Grand Caravan and Chrysler Town & Country minivan.

That is not a bad thing. But it is nowhere near good enough to cause consumers to choose one over the other. That means it leaves the Routan vulnerable to the same robust competition from the Honda Odyssey, Toyota Sienna and Hyundai Entourage minivans that has been making life miserable for the Chrysler models.

In the minivan segment, the Odyssey has the best ride and handling. The Sienna ties with the Chrysler models for best

utility, with the Chrysler duo arguably having an edge in the utility department with its clever Stow ‘n Go and Swivel ‘n Go seating options. And the Hyundai Entourage, considering its top safety ratings, excellent build quality and generous offering of standard equipment at an attractive price, has the best value.

We all found it odd that Volkswagen, the company that once gave us the charming, picnic-able Eurovan with middle and rear seats that allowed face-to-face communion between passengers over a dining table, would adopt the Chrysler minivan platform without the Swivel ‘n Go option. It was more than odd. It was downright disappointing.

Swivel ‘n Go, introduced on the 2008 Dodge Grand Caravan and Chrysler Town and Country, allows middle-row passengers to turn their seats 180 degrees to face passengers in the rear. An optional table can be set up between front and rear passengers for dining or playing games.

It is a more enriching way of traveling with family and friends. It adds fun to the trip. It mostly is why so many of us loved the Eurovan. In fact, since Volkswagen has decided to re-enter the family van market in North America, we would’ve preferred that it had done so with the Eurovan, which has a distinct personality in terms of ride, feel and utility.

NUTS & BOLTS

By **WARREN BROWN**
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINT: In a world of good minivans, two of them from which the Routan is derived, there is no compelling reason to buy the Routan.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING: It rides, feels and accelerates like a Chrysler minivan. You’ll get where you are going just as slowly in a Routan as you will in the seminal Chrysler model.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT: It is slightly more attractive than the Chrysler models inside and out, which isn’t saying much. After all, how many ways can you restyle a tube, or a breadbox?

BODY STYLE: The Routan is a front-engine, front-wheel-drive minivan with sliding side doors (power sliding doors optional) and a lift-gate in the rear.

ENGINES/TRANSMISSION: The tested Routan SE and the base “S” model come with a 3.8-liter V-6 that develops 197 horsepower and 230 foot-pounds of torque. The upscale Routan SEL is outfitted with a 4.0-liter V-6 that puts out a maximum 253 horsepower and 260 foot-pounds of torque. Both engines are mated to a six-speed transmission that can be operated automatically or manually.

CAPACITIES: The Routan has seats for seven people. Cargo capacity with center and rear seats up is 32.7 cubic feet. It goes to 144 cubic feet with center and rear seats lowered. The fuel tank holds 20.5 gallons of recommended regular unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE: We averaged 14 miles per gallon in Washington and New York City, where we repeatedly wound up idling in traffic jams. Average highway mileage was substantially better at 25 miles per gallon.

SAFETY: Standard equipment includes front and rear disc brakes (ventilated front/solid rear) with four-wheel antilock protection, emergency braking assistance, electronic stability and traction control, and side and head air bags.

PRICING: The base price on the 2009 Volkswagen Routan SE is \$29,700. Dealer’s invoice price on that model is \$27,711. The base price on the comparable Chrysler Town & Country is \$29,645. Options, such as onboard navigation and leather seating surfaces, easily can push the sales prices of both models to \$35,000. Prices are sourced from Chrysler, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE: Again, we find no compelling reason to buy this one. But if you must have “German engineering” in your minivan, we suggest that you drive for the best price possible.

But, alas, Volkswagen’s rush to increase its sales volume stateside, and to do so at a cost that wouldn’t anger its money managers, nixed the reintroduction of the Eurovan.

Required changes for tougher U.S. vehicle safety rules—for example, placement and anchoring of that travel table, a problem solved by Chrysler’s engineers—was too expensive. Unfavorable currency exchange rates aggravated vehicle pricing. And, hey, Chrysler’s plant in Windsor, Ontario, had lots

of excess production capacity available at a bargain price.

Turning excess capacity into a buck earned was good for Chrysler. It was seemingly good for VW. But the reality on the ground is that it does little for the consumer. And that goofy name, Routan, a combination of “route” and the “an” suffix Volkswagen routinely attaches to van names, doesn’t help.

Mark this one as a rare Volkswagen mistake, one we’re betting will have a mercifully short life in the marketplace.

Porsche wraps its hulking Panamera in a corset

By **DAN NEIL**
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

The new Porsche Panamera is the best-handling big sedan in the world, which I grant is a little like being the smartest kid on the Arizona State football team or the most chaste governor of South Carolina. No matter how hard you try—and Porsche’s engineers have busted their adorable lederhosen here—a 4,344-pound, 16.3-foot four-door cannot beguile physics like a sports car, and it certainly cannot be made to handle anything like a 911.

The Panamera thus presents Porsche with a problem of brand ontology: What is a Porsche? If you’ve spent much time in a Boxster, Cayman or 911 Carrera, new or old, you know the feeling of these cars: cold-rolled and heat-tempered, hard and light, nap of the Earth, edgy and reactive, ineffably masculine, a disposition that is to other sports cars what Dexedrine is to Geritol.

The Panamera is none of that. Compared with a 911, this thing handles like well-upholstered field artillery.

There’s nothing flickable or silver-heeled about the Panamera, and although its limits are truly spectacular—the Turbo model with the Sport Chrono

package can carrier-launch from zero to 60 mph in 4 seconds, generate 1 g of cornering force and brake to a stop from 188 mph in a tongue-unraveling 7 seconds—the Panamera requires nothing so much as deliberation at the wheel.

This is a big car (76 inches wide on a 115-inch wheelbase)



The new Porsche Panamera is the best-handling big sedan in the world.

with a 4.8-liter V8 up front (400 horsepower, or 500 hp in turbo trim).

There’s no trailing-throttle oversteer bringing the tail around as there is in a rear-engine 911. No capering through the esses. Yes, you can make the Panamera do amazing things. Bring a whip and a chair.

Porsche’s chieftains know they are trying to bridge a conceptual gulf here, so you’ll

notice the advertising harping on this notion of this gran turismo being a “true” Porsche, to the point of protesting too much. I take a different view. It’s a car made by Porsche, with breathtaking engineering that is routine for Weissach. The materials are exquisite, the seats are fantastic, the four-seat

must have played unceasingly in Richard Wagner’s balmy head? It’s in the exhaust.

I love the big, through-cabin console with its switches arrayed like the stripes on a sergeant’s sleeve. Among the hundredweight of amenities are things such as a second navigation display embedded in the instrument panel and an optional Burmester audiophile sound system, a 1,000-watt, 16-channel/speaker unit that is the best road-going audio I’ve ever heard.

The damned car is magnificent. But it is not made of the same charmed isotopes as the 911, and therefore is not a Porsche. Sorry.

Ironically, the company’s determination to have the Panamera received as a true Porsche has led to the car’s greatest downfall: its exterior styling. Or is that a pratfall? If you look closely, you’ll see that styling chief Michael Mauer has taken the front and rear of a 911 and rudely grafted two sets of sedan doors in between. I understand this was done in the name of brand continuity, to retain the styling vocabulary of Porsche, in which there is real equity. But, jeez, this isn’t styling—this is some kind of weird enlargement surgery you go to South America for.

NUTS & BOLTS

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

- **Base price:** \$132,600
- **Price as tested:** \$145,000 (est.)
- **Powertrain:** Turbocharged and inter-cooled direct-injection 4.8-liter V8 with variable valve timing and lift; seven-speed dual-clutch transmission; all-wheel drive
- **Horsepower:** 500 at 6,500 rpm
- **Torque:** 516 pound-feet of torque (567 pound-feet in Sport Plus mode)
- **Curb weight:** 4,344 pounds
- **Wheelbase:** 115 inches
- **Overall length:** 195.7 inches
- **0-60 mph:** 4 seconds
- **EPA fuel economy:** 21 miles per gallon city/highway combined
- **Final thoughts:** Spectacular and very Porsche-like ... but not

Source: Porsche

aerodynamics, active anti-roll bars and all manner of traction and stability assists, as well as anti-lock and anti-fade braking technologies. The adaptive air suspension enables drivers to raise the car an inch to get in and out of driveways; it also enables the car to squat down an inch in Sport Plus mode, for better cornering stability and lower aero-drag.

On the Turbo, the four-piece rear wing deploys in stages until, at 127 mph, it attains a 10-degree attack angle for max down force until the car reaches its top speed of 188 mph. I hit 180 mph, and the car couldn’t have been more civilized and nailed down. What kind of sick mind makes a car cabin quiet at those speeds?

Yes, the Bentley Flying Spur is faster, with a 202-mph top speed, but the Panamera Turbo would obliterate the Bentley on a road course.

Obviously, there’s a lot of technology on this car and one enormous fig leaf of environmental respectability. The Panamera comes with a stop-start feature that, under the right circumstances, will kill the engine at a stoplight to improve fuel economy.

Yes, but for the lake of fire under the hood, that’s very efficient.

Life & Style

OMG!! Jackson memorial passes start to trickle out

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Who's getting the tickets?

Like a modern-day Willy Wonka tale, more than 1.6 million fans waited to learn Sunday whether they were among the lucky few to win access to Michael Jackson's memorial service Tuesday at Staples Center.

On Sunday evening, fans around the world started posting Twitter messages about receiving tickets.

"OMG OMG OMG OMG i got tickets to the Michael Jackson memorial service!!!" tweeted Deka Daye from San Francisco. Other messages came from users in Scotland and Iran.

Fans registered online for free in the random drawing of only 8,750 names. Each person selected will receive two tickets. The odds of getting a ticket were about 1 in 183.

The tickets will admit 11,000 people to the Staples Center plus 6,500 in the Nokia Theater overflow section next door. The streets around the stadium will be closed to prevent those without tickets from trying to attend, police said Sunday.

Assistant Police Chief Jim McDonnell warned people without tickets to stay away: "You'll be standing in the hot sun on a city street with a lot of other people ... but not within eyeshot of Staples."

Jackson died at age 50 on June 25 after going into cardiac arrest in the bedroom of his rented mansion. The cause of Jackson's death has not been determined. Autopsy results are not expected for several weeks.

Also Sunday, a judge signed search warrants connected to the investigation of Jackson's death, Los Angeles County Superior Court spokesman Allan Parachini said. The warrants were sealed and Parachini would not discuss any details.

Authorities are investigating allegations that Jackson had been consuming painkillers, sedatives and antidepressants. The powerful sedative Diprivan,

which is usually administered by anesthesiologists in hospitals, was found in his home. It was not known what drugs, if any, Jackson obtained from doctors.

Jackson's family was planning a private ceremony at the Forest Lawn cemetery in the Hollywood Hills, McDonnell said. He did not provide



A child passes a large poster at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, Sunday, July 5, 2009. The venue is the planned location for late pop star Michael Jackson's memorial service scheduled for Tuesday, July 7.

Al Sharpton calls for 'love vigils' for Jackson

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Rev. Al Sharpton has delivered a sermon in Los Angeles where he called for nationwide "love vigils" for Michael Jackson on Tuesday.

The civil rights activist addressed congregants at the First African Meth-

odist Episcopal Church on Sunday.

Sharpton is urging people to gather in schools, community centers and churches to honor Jackson on Tuesday, when a public memorial service will be held at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Jackson family plans private event at LA cemetery

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles police say Michael Jackson's family is planning a private ceremony at a cemetery in the Hollywood Hills.

Assistant Chief Jim McDonnell said Sunday that his department is working with the Jackson family on a "private family function" at the Forest Lawn cemetery. He had no other details.

McDonnell also says police plan

to shut down streets on Tuesday for blocks around the downtown Staples Center where a public memorial service is planned. Police are trying to keep out tens of thousands of fans who could come without tickets.

More than 1.6 million fans registered for a random drawing of tickets to the ceremony. Each of the 8,750 people selected to receive a pair of tickets will be notified by e-mail Sunday.

further details.

More than a week after his death, tributes and accolades keep coming. Madonna had a Jackson impersonator dance to "Wanna Be Starting Something" at her concert Saturday in the same London arena where he was to stage his comeback.

The Rev. Al Sharpton called for nationwide "love vigils" for Jackson, asking people to gather in schools, community centers and churches to watch the memorial service and talk about the pop star's "message" instead of the "mess" surrounding his death.

The memorial service will be broadcast on five television networks, after NBC executives changed their minds Sunday and decided to air the service live. NBC joins ABC, CNN, MSNBC and E! Entertainment.

Before the ticket drawing, AEG would "scrub" the entries to eliminate duplicates and any suspected of being made by automated systems, Jackson family spokesman Ken Sunshine said

in a statement.

Winners received a unique code and instructions on how to pick up their tickets Monday at an off-site distribution center. When they pick up their tickets, a wristband will be placed on their wrists.

To prevent ticket scalping, fans must have both the ticket and the wristband to enter Staples Center on Tuesday. Wristbands that have been ripped, taped or tampered with will be voided.

City officials are preparing for huge crowds. McDonnell, the assistant police chief, would not say how many police would be on the job, but alluded to the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics and the recent championship celebration for the Los Angeles Lakers at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

The ceremony will not be shown on Staples' giant outdoor TV screen and there will be no funeral procession through the city.

No details were available about the actual memorial events.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dr. Tohme Tohme vividly remembers the first time he met with Michael Jackson to discuss the pop star's finances. It's not the money talk that stays with him now, but his enchantment at entering Jackson's world of love.

"I saw how kind he was and what a wonderful human being," Tohme said in an interview. "I saw him with his children and I had never seen a better father. ... I decided to do what I could to help him."

Tohme, a financier with a murky past, had been contacted by Jackson's brother, Jermaine, who asked if Tohme could help to save Jackson's beloved Neverland ranch from foreclosure. Tohme said he traveled with Jermaine to Las Vegas, where Jackson was living after years of wandering the world following his acquittal on child molestation charges.

They bonded instantly. "For the last year and a half I was the closest person to Michael Jackson," Tohme said. He contacted Tom Barrack, the chairman of Colony Capital and a

AP Interview: Jackson adviser Tohme breaks silence

close personal friend. "He was hesitant to get involved, but I said, 'Let's go see Michael,'" Tohme recalled.

After the meeting he said Barrack, who was impressed with Jackson's "intelligence and focus," bought the note for Neverland. But that was just the beginning of a business relationship that culminated in the London concerts that were to have begun next week.

Wearing a suit with no tie, Tohme, Jackson's last business manager and spokesperson, granted his first interview Friday to The Associated Press in the office of a lawyer friend.

Tohme, listed in public records as being in his late 50s, has been portrayed as something of a mystery man in the Jackson brain trust.

"I hate the words 'mystery man,'" he said. "I'm a private man. A lot of peo-

ple like the media and I don't. I respect the privacy of other people but lately nobody respects mine."

As he spoke, his cell phone rang constantly. He took only a few calls, one of them from Jesse Jackson.

He has been stung by allegations that he was involved with the Nation of Islam, which he said was untrue.

"I have nothing against anybody," he said, "But I don't know anyone from the Nation of Islam. When I took over Michael Jackson's affairs, I fired some people from the Nation of Islam."

It is known that he is of Lebanese descent. His double name—pronounced toh-MAY—is not uncommon in the Middle East. But he declined to go into detail about his own life and career other than to say he is a U.S. citizen who was raised in Los Angeles and, "I'm a self-made man. I'm



Tohme

ed a Broadway show with the Nederlander organization, an animated TV show based on "Thriller," a line of clothing including "moonwalk shoes," and more. He said he was working with others to renegotiate the terms of Jackson's main assets, his share of the Sony-ATV Music Publishing Catalog—which includes music by the Beatles—and the catalog of Mijac, the company that controls Michael Jackson's own music.

"I am not in the music business. I'm a stranger to this business," Tohme said, noting that he had stiff competition from others who wanted to take over Jackson's finances.

"I built a fence around Michael to keep people out," he said, acknowledging that he cut costs by firing many members of the Jackson staff, including security guards. And he twice fired the children's nanny, Grace Rawaramba, on Jackson's orders.

"I was trying to do what we could to maximize his profits and minimize spending. I wanted to find a way to reel in all the loans he had.

Sarah Palin links resignation to a 'higher calling'

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—Outgoing Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin on Saturday laid the groundwork to take on a larger, national role after leaving state government, citing a "higher calling" with the aim of uniting the country along conservative lines.

A day after surprising even her closest friends by announcing she would step down as Alaska governor more than a year before her term was up, the controversial hockey mom was still keeping details of her future plans under wrap. But in a statement posted on Palin's Facebook account, she suggested that she had bigger plans and a national agenda she planned to push after she resigns at the end of the month.

"I am now looking ahead and how we can advance this country together with our values of less government intervention, greater energy independence, stronger national security, and much-needed fiscal restraint," she said.

Palin also cast herself as a victim and blasted the media, calling the response to her announcement "predictable" and out of touch.

"How sad that Washington and the media will never understand; it's about country," the statement said. "And though it's honorable for countless others to leave their positions for a higher calling and without finishing a term, of course we know by now, for some reason a different standard applies for the decisions I make."

Palin's personal spokeswoman, Meghan Stapleton, confirmed to The Associated Press that the Facebook posting was written by the governor.

The abruptness of her announcement and the mystery surrounding her plans has fed widespread speculation. But Palin attorney Thomas Van Flein on Saturday warned legal action may be taken against bloggers and publications that reprint what he calls fraudulent claims.

"To the extent several websites, most notably liberal Alaska blogger Shannyn Moore, are now claiming as 'fact' that Governor Palin resigned because she is 'under federal investigation' for embezzlement or other criminal wrongdoing, we will be exploring legal options this week to address such defamation," Van Flein said in a statement. "This is to provide notice to Ms. Moore, and those who re-publish the defamation, such as Huffington Post, MSNBC, the New York Times and The Washington Post, that the Palins will not allow them to propagate defamatory material without answering to this in a court of law."

Palin has kept a low profile since her abrupt announcement Friday at a hastily called news conference at her home in suburban Wasilla, outside Anchorage. All of her public communication since then has been on the social networking sites Facebook and Twitter, or through statements re-



Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin announces that she is stepping down from her position as governor in Wasilla, Alaska on Friday July 3, 2009.

leased by her office.

At the same time, Palin informed her spokesman David Murrow early Saturday that someone using the name "exgovsarahpalin" on Twitter was spreading a false rumor that there was to be a party at her suburban home in Wasilla, outside Anchorage. Palin was afraid her home would be mobbed, and security was dispatched, Murrow said.

With only a few weeks before she steps down on July 26, and Lt. Gov. Sean Parnell takes her place, the governor spent the Fourth of July weekend in the

state capital, Juneau, but was only spotted briefly on the sidelines of the city's parade.

She had been invited to ride in a convertible, as she did last year, but never told organizers whether she would attend.

Juneau parade director Jean Sztuk said officials drew up banners in case Palin showed and was willing to take part.

As the last of the parade's clowns and marching bands headed past her, Sztuk gave up on Palin. "What governor wants to be at the end of the parade?" she asked.

Her low-profile and vague Internet messages left mounting questions about her plans for the future shrouded in mystery. Will she lay the groundwork for a 2012 presidential bid? Will she find a high-profile place in the private sector, maybe on the speech circuit? Will she drop out of the limelight and focus on her five children?

Her constituents, for one, wanted to know, especially in Juneau, where she has struggled to win over residents.

"I think she owes it to Alaskans to tell us why," said state Sen. Dennis Egan, D-Juneau, the son of Alaska's first governor, Bill Egan.

Egan, hosting a 50th anniversary statehood ceremony, said he was disappointed Palin decided not to finish out her term, which was scheduled to end in 2010.

"It's sad she abandoned us at this critical time," said Egan, who was appointed by Palin to an open seat on the last day of the legislative session in April, after a protracted battle with Senate Democrats.

Palin's departure can't come soon enough for Laurel Carlton, a waitress at the Capital Cafe in the Baranof Hotel, where the city's political movers and shakers meet every morning before walking a few blocks to the Capitol.

"I think she has a game plan that's not Alaska, and hasn't been for awhile," Carlton said.

She noted Palin has a book

deal, and seems headed for the national stage.

"If you're really not going to stay and do your job every day, you should leave anyway, and so the sooner the better so somebody can step in and actually do the job," Carlton said.

And as far as Carlton is concerned, Palin doesn't need to explain why she's leaving.

"We don't care. We just want her gone," she said.

Palin, whose popularity in Alaska has waned amid ongoing ethics investigations, gave many reasons for stepping down: She didn't want to be a lame-duck governor; she was tired of the tasteless jokes aimed at her five children, including her son Trig, who has Down syndrome; she felt she could do more in another, still-to-be-defined role.

Sen. John McCain didn't rule out a return to politics for his former running mate, saying Saturday he believes "she will continue to play an important leadership role in the Republican Party and our nation." He gave no other details. Even Parnell, who plans to run for re-election after finishing out Palin's term, said he was shocked at first when he learned of his boss' decision.

"But then as she began to articulate her reasons, I began to understand better," he said. "And nobody—unless they've been in her position and understood what she has gone through and dealt with and who she is as a person—really understands."

Death & Funeral Announcement EMILIO TUDELA TORRES

February 15, 1944 - July 01, 2009

Was called by his Creator on Wednesday July 01, 2009 at the age of 65.

His memories will live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Ana Rapaito Taisakan Torres

Children/Spouses and their families: **Doris Marie T. & Luis T. Duenas** (Luis Jr. and Lorenza Ann); **Emerita T. Torres** (Isaac); **Carlos T. & Percelleia Boddy Torres** (Janessa and Charly Dana)

Brothers and Sister: Congressman Stanley Tudela McGinnis-Torres & Arlene Cabrera Torres; Dolores Tudela Torres Fejeran & Manuel Untalan Fejeran; Antonio Tudela Torres & Connie Dela Cruz Torres; Vicente Tudela Torres & Rosita (Lupe) Perez Cruz Torres; Stanley Cabrera Torres & Juanny Garrido Torres

Brothers and Sisters in-law: Feliciano Rapaito Taisakan; †Amalia Rapaito Taisakan Lifofoi & Jose Rebuonog Lifofoi; Emilia Rapaito Taisakan Tudela & Jose Torres Tudela; Isidro Rapaito Taisakan & Pia Aldan Taisakan; Clara Rapaito Taisakan & Heinrick Ogumoro

In his new life, he now joins his:

Grandparents: Jose Salas McGinnis Torres & Maria Cabrera Arriola Torres
Vicente Ramirez Tudela & Rita Diaz Borja Tudela

Parents: Carlos Arriola McGinnis Torres & Ana Borja Tudela Torres

Children: Evelyn Taisakan Torres and Christopher Taisakan Torres

Grandson: Christian Boddy Torres

Parents in-law: Adolfo Crisostomo Taisakan & Lina Rapaito Taisakan

Sisters in-law: Amalia Taisakan Lifofoi

Daily Mass of intention is being offered at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 am.

Nightly Rosary is being held at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:00 pm.

Viewing, Responso and Last respects will be at Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel begins at 7:30 am to 9:45 am on Thursday, July 09, 2009. His remains will be escorted to Mt. Carmel Cathedral for Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 am. Interment follows at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS
Wife, Children & Family



'Transformers,' 'Ice Age' tie for No. 1 at \$42.5M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prehistoric creatures and robots were in a photo finish for the Fourth of July box-office crown Sunday, with "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" and "Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs" tied with \$42.5 million each.

Final numbers Monday will sort out which movie actually came in first, Paramount's "Transformers" or 20th Century Fox's "Ice Age." Numbers reported during the weekend are estimates based on the studio's projections for how much business the movies will do on Sunday.

"I've seen squeakers before in my time, but never one like this," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com.

In past close finishes, studios

have accused each other of inflating their Sunday estimates to gain first-place bragging rights, only to have another movie take the No. 1 spot once final numbers are reported the next day.

"This shows a lot of respect between the two studios," Dergarabedian said. "They're just saying 'Look, as of right now, it's too close to call.'"

Universal's crime saga "Public Enemies," starring Johnny Depp and Christian Bale, debuted a solid No. 3 with \$26.2 million.

It's rare when box-office rankings are so close, particularly in summer, when movies typically have huge opening weekends then trail off to make way for the next blockbuster.

But the action adventure "Transformers" held up well

- (tie). "Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs," \$42.5 million.
- (tie). "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen," \$42.5 million.
- "Public Enemies," \$26.2 million.
- "The Proposal," \$12.8 million.
- "The Hangover," \$10.4 million.
- "Up," \$6.6 million.
- "My Sister's Keeper," \$5.3 million.
- "The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3," \$2.5 million.
- (tie). "Year One," \$2.1 million.
- (tie). "Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian," \$2.1 million.

from its \$109 million debut the previous weekend, while the animated sequel "Ice Age" packed

in family crowds.

With a \$293.5 million domestic total after just 12 days, "Transformers" shot past Disney and Pixar Animation's "Up" to become the year's highest-grossing movie. The sequel reunites human stars Shia LaBeouf and Megan Fox with shape-shifting robots in a war against evil machines.

"Ice Age," the third installment in the cartoon franchise, brings back voice stars Ray Romano, Denis Leary, John Leguizamo and Queen Latifah as the gang of extinct animals encounter a lost world of dinosaurs underground. Since opening Wednesday, "Ice Age" has taken in \$67.5 million.

Other studios generally were tracking "Transformers" and "Ice Age" within a few hundred

thousand dollars of each other.

"It's just so close," said Bert Livingston, Fox distribution executive. "It all comes down to Sunday for us. We are elated to be in that rarefied air with one of the biggest event movies ever."

With the Fourth of July falling on Saturday, usually Hollywood's busiest day, revenues trailed off as people skipped movies to watch fireworks and go to cookouts or other outdoor activities.

"Public Enemies," starring Depp as 1930s gangster John Dillinger and Bale as FBI man Melvin Purvis, pulled in an audience of older adults who often do not pack theaters for summer's action tales, family flicks and comedies.

"We felt this was going to be the right moment to insert some-

thing with a little bit more substance into the mix," said Adam Fogelson, Universal's president of marketing and distribution.

"Up" reached a milestone of its own, its \$6.6 million weekend lifting its domestic haul to \$264.9 million, passing "The Incredibles" (\$261.4 million) to become No. 2 on the Disney-Pixar hit list behind "Finding Nemo" (\$339.7 million).

With \$10.4 million, the Warner Bros. bachelor-party comedy "The Hangover" became the year's fourth movie to cross the \$200 million mark, climbing to a domestic total of \$204.2 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

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NOW SHOWING



Ice Age: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs

Fri. and Sat. 1:20 4:30 7:25 9:30
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:20 4:30 7:25

John Leguizamo, Queen Latifah

Family-Oriented Adventure • Rated PG

Synopsis

After the events of Ice Age: The Meltdown, life begins to change for Manny and his friends: Scratt is still on the hunt to hold onto his beloved acorn, while finding a possible romance in a female sabre-toothed squirrel named Scratte. Manny and Ellie, having since become an item, are expecting a baby, which leaves Manny anxious to ensure that everything is perfect for when his baby arrives. Diego is fed up with being treated like a house-cat and ponders the notion that he is becoming too laid-back.



Public Enemies

Fri. and Sat. 1:25 4:20 7:05 9:50
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:25 4:20 7:05

Johnny Depp, Christian Bale

Crime Drama • Rated R

Synopsis

Based on author Bryan Burrough's ambitious tome Public Enemies: America's Greatest Crime Wave and the Birth of the FBI, 1933-43, director Michael Mann's sprawling historical crime drama follows the efforts of top FBI agent Melvin Purvis (Christian Bale) in capturing notorious bank robber John Dillinger. A folk hero to the American public thanks to his penchant for robbing the banks that many people believed responsible for the Great Depression, charming bandit Dillinger (Johnny Depp).



My Sister's Keeper

Fri. and Sat. 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:55
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:30 4:25 7:20

Cameron Diaz, Abigail Breslin

Family Drama • Rated PG-13



Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen

Fri. and Sat. 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:00 4:00 7:00

Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox

Sci-Fi Action • Rated PG-13



BFF (Best Friends Forever)

Fri. and Sat. 1:05 4:05 7:10 9:35
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:05 4:05 7:10

Sharon Cuneta, Ai Ai Delas Alas

Prehistoric Fantasy, Comedy • Rated PG



The Proposal

Fri. and Sat. 1:15 4:10 7:15 9:40
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:15 4:10 7:15

Sandra Bullock, Ryan Reynolds

Romantic Comedy • Rated PG-13



Year One

Fri. and Sat. 1:10 7:30
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:10 7:30

Jack Black, Michael Cera

Drama Comedy • Rated PG-13



Taking of Pelham 123

Fri. and Sat. 4:15 9:45
 Sun. thru Thurs. 4:15

Denzel Washington, John Travolta

Thriller • Rated R

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In this screen shot, Yahoo Inc.'s "omg" Web site is shown.

AP

Omg! Positive tone boosts Yahoo celeb site to top

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—Think of the most popular brands in celebrity news, and you'll probably come up with a small list that includes Entertainment Tonight, US Weekly and People.

Consider the most successful celebrity news destinations online, and something else jumps to the top. For more than a year, one site has attracted more eyeballs than any other in the realm of celebrity gossip: Yahoo Inc.'s omg.

With a dedicated staff of just five people, and more than a dozen shared with other Yahoo sites, the company has settled on a formula that Yahoo Media Group head Jimmy Pitaro calls "highly profitable," though Yahoo won't reveal details.

The fact that Yahoo's entertainment site outdraws rivals that aim to break news—such as TMZ.com, which broke the news of Michael Jackson's death—helps illustrate that success online doesn't always mean being first and having exclusives.

It also marks a rare success for the struggling Internet portal, which has shed thousands of employees and shuttered several businesses, a process CEO Carol Bartz accelerated after being hired in January.

While Bartz said at a shareholders meeting in June that she felt too many entertainment stories make Yahoo's front page, Pitaro said she's a solid supporter of the company's media properties in general.

Omg puts a light, positive spin on articles and other tidbits that mostly come from other news organizations such as Access Hollywood and The Associated Press. The vital placement of omg links and blurbs on Yahoo's home page gives it access to some 500 million unique visitors a month.

The strategy has vaulted the 2-year-old site past People and TMZ, both units of Time Warner Inc., as well as other popular celebrity sites like PerezHilton.com.

According to the latest figures from tracking firm comScore, omg clocked 20.6 million unique visitors in May, a 65 percent increase from a year ago and more than No. 2 TMZ and No. 3 People combined.

'Slumdog' kid star to move into new home next week

MUMBAI, India (AP)—One of the impoverished child stars from "Slumdog Millionaire" will move from his shanty home in one of Mumbai's more wretched slums into a new apartment next week, his mother said Sunday.

"On Friday we got the keys," said Shameem Ismail, the mother of child star Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail, who played the young Salim in the Oscar-winning hit.

The family started moving in over the weekend, bringing pots and pans, a television set, and their birdcage. They plan to fully relocate by Tuesday, she said.

Both Azhar and his co-star Rubina Ali lost their homes in May after civic authorities demolished parts of the slum where they lived.

Within days of the demolition, Azhar's family rebuilt their home—a shanty of corrugated metal, wood, and blankets, meager protection against the pounding monsoon rains sweeping across Mumbai.

But the filmmakers bought Azhar a 250-square foot (23



Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail, child actor of the Oscar-winning movie "Slumdog Millionaire," poses for media outside his new house in a residential complex in Mumbai, India, Saturday, July 4, 2009.

square-meter) one-bedroom apartment on the ground floor of a building in the Santa Cruz neighborhood of Mumbai, not far from where he now lives and attends school.

The \$50,000 apartment will be transferred to Azhar's name when

he turns 18, provided he finishes school, said Nirja Mattoo, who helps oversee the Jai Ho trust set up by "Slumdog Millionaire" director Danny Boyle and producer Christian Colson. The fund is meant to secure an education, housing and a living allowance

for the two children.

Mattoo said Sunday that the trust is still looking for an apartment for Rubina, who has lived with relatives in the slum since the demolition. "Slumdog Millionaire" has grossed over \$350 million worldwide.

Asking a father's permission remains a cherished tradition

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: You got it all wrong with "Dismayed in Roswell, Ga." (April 8), who complained that his daughter's fiance didn't ask his blessing before proposing. I'm the mother of two high-school-age daughters, and it would signal a rupture in our relationship if my husband and I were not included in the process.



Dear Abby

You made it sound like this self-supporting daughter has no obligation to help her father and fiance begin their own relationship as in-laws. This is a perfect time for this "grown" young woman to establish a mutually respectful adult/parent connection. Advising Dad that the "gesture was unwelcome" is advising him to swallow all efforts to communicate and connect with his daughter and her fiance, when he clearly wants to be included.

I'm also unimpressed with a young man who would make no effort to ingratiate himself to his future children's grandfather. Marriages in our society are struggling to survive precisely because young people like those place no importance on building a support system. We need our parents and others to help us through the tough challenges. As a divorced father, "Dismayed" deserves every opportunity before the wedding to help his daughter get it right the first time.

JAN IN ST. PAUL

DEAR JAN: Your opinion was shared by some—but certainly not all—of those who wrote to comment. Read on:

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: The custom of asking a father for permission to marry his daughter is outdated and for good reason. It's not so much a gesture of respect as a symbolic gesture that indicates the woman is a piece of property being "purchased" from the previous owner (the father) by a prospective new owner (husband-to-be).

The daughter in that letter, "Amanda," is one of many women today who regard the practice as disrespectful to women, not respectful to loving fathers. Dad's comment about "who wears the pants" in the family shows he feels Amanda should be unequal and subservient to her new "owner." She wants no part of this custom, not because her fiance "doesn't pass muster," but because she lucked out and found a man who, unlike her dad, views her as an equal in their relationship and, therefore, is as offended as she is by this outdated practice.

OUTRAGED IN BELLEVUE, WASH.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: "Dismayed" said that his 24-year-old daughter was "out on her own, leading a productive life." Why should he feel that her hand was his to give?

When I became engaged after living independently for a number of years, I made it clear to my fiance that I would be insulted if he asked my father for permission to marry me. Saying that it's a sign of respect to Dad is missing the point that treating a woman as a free and independent person is a sign of respect to HER.

DIANE IN OAKDALE, CALIF.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Men should ask the fathers of their brides-to-be for permission! It gives the dads the opportunity to really talk to the men about their intentions and goals. I am 23 and many of my friends are getting married. Each of their fiances has asked their father. And I would not accept a ring unless my beloved had asked mine.

MEAGHAN IN NEW YORK

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Potter star Rupert Grint recovering from swine flu

LONDON (AP)—The agent for "Harry Potter" star Rupert Grint says the actor is recovering from a mild case of swine flu.

Grint plays the boy wizard's best friend Ron Weasley in the hit film franchise.

Christian Hodell of Hamilton Hodell management said Saturday that Grint took a few days away from the set of the latest film, but has now been able to return to work.

Little people call for FCC to ban 'midget'

NEW YORK (AP)—Little people are calling on the Federal Communications Commission to ban the use of the word "midget" on broadcast TV.

The group Little People of America said Sunday the word is just as offensive as racial slurs. The request was prompted by an April episode of NBC's "Celebrity Apprentice" that the group said was demeaning.

In the episode, contestants created a detergent ad called "Jesse James and the Midgets." The contestants, including Joan Rivers, suggested bathing little people in the detergent and hanging them to dry.

Calls to the FCC and "Celebrity Apprentice" host Donald Trump were not immediately answered Sunday. NBC Universal representatives didn't immediately respond to e-mail messages, and the telephone rang unanswered at their Los Angeles office.

Former Nirvana bassist is small-town politico

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP)—It's been a busy year for former Nirvana bassist turned politico Krist Novoselic (noh-voh-SEL'-ich).

He released a new record in May, had a short-lived protest candidacy for clerk of his home county in Washington state, and is now focused on keeping an alternative voting system in place in another county.

"Politics is just organizing people toward common goals, and I feel like I'm doing a lot of good work," Novoselic said after speaking at a luncheon hosted by Washington state Secretary of State Sam Reed. "It takes a while but you have successes and you have setbacks."

Novoselic said Thursday that he's already working to defeat a November ballot measure that would repeal Pierce County's "ranked choice" voting system, in which a voter ranks each can-

didate in order of preference.

He said he's also planning to be involved in an effort to get a similar system in Los Angeles.

Last month, he withdrew from the race for Wahkiakum (wah-KAI'-ah-kum) County clerk, saying he filed for the office only to protest Washington's system of letting candidates pick their own party affiliation.

Novoselic, who lives in tiny Deep River, is the head of his local chapter of the Grange, a civic organization. He's also chairman of the county Democrats. His election paperwork declared that he was running under the "Grange Party" banner, even though the Grange isn't a political party.

"People are looking for new things and they were positive about the idea of the Grange Party," he said. "Because I'm well known in the county and

beyond, I think I got a good response."

A few weeks later, he withdrew his name from contention. "I'm not crusading anymore," he said. "I made my point."

In addition to his local political activism, Novoselic writes a weekly blog and has a radio show on an Astoria, Ore.-based radio station twice a month. A pilot, he regularly flies his Cessna 182 around the state, including to Olympia on Thursday.

He recently had his oral history posted online as part of Washington state's Secretary of State's Legacy Project.

Novoselic, 44, says he recently quit his latest band, Flipper, because he didn't want to tour. His last album with them was released in May. He said he still plays guitar every day, and is looking to organize a new band, but needs to find a drummer first.

Estonians sing en masse to lift spirits amid slump



Women in traditional Estonian costumes seen at the opening ceremony of Song and Dance Celebration, held every five years, in Tallinn, Estonia, Thursday, July 2, 2009.

TALLINN, Estonia (AP)—More than 20,000 choir singers at an outdoor stage in Tallinn were getting ready to fill the air with positive vibes amid Estonia's crippling recession.

Organizers say up to 100,000 spectators are expected at Sunday's choir performances on the final day of the massive Song and Dance Celebration that is held only once every five years.

Earlier in the day, some 7,500 folk dancers in traditional Estonian costumes danced before an audience of 30,000.

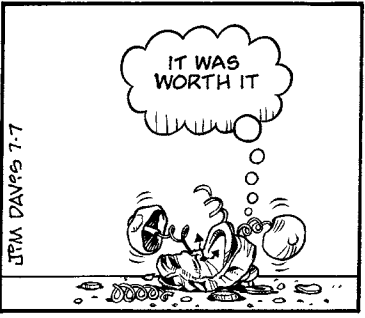
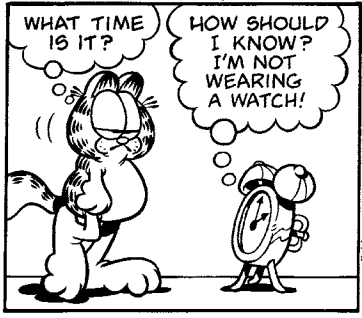
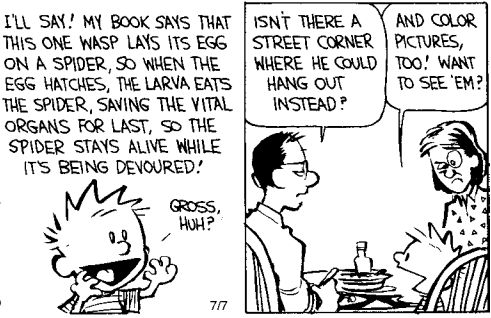
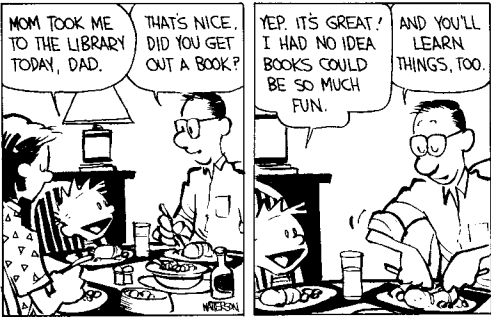
Organizers hope the event will unite the recession-hit nation of 1.3 million people. Some 24,000 voices are to sing in unison at the concert's high point later Sunday in a repertoire that includes mostly traditional Estonian folk songs.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

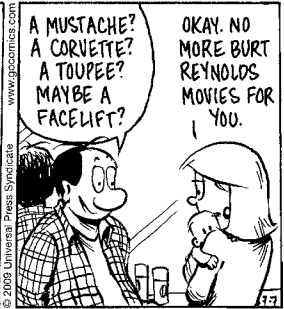
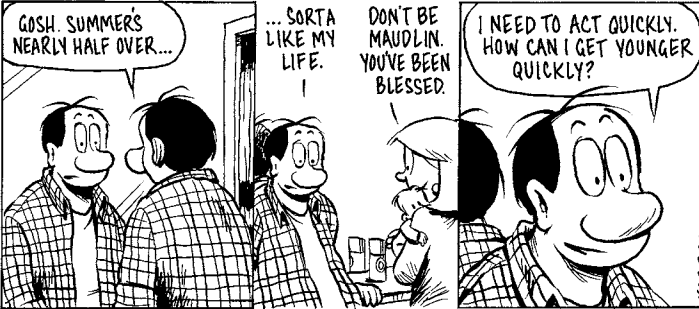
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Parks or Bonheur 5 Chess piece 9 Dandy 12 Sleeping 13 Conception 14 White House nickname 15 Big-bucks specialist 17 Pinch 18 Heart of the matter 19 Holds sway 21 Add on 24 Mrs. Dithers in the comics 25 Advertising award 26 Presentations 30 Sun shade? 31 On all (crawling) 32 Anonymous John 33 Cheap ride section

35 Carriage 36 "Star —" 37 Stash a lot 38 Crouch 40 Hoodlum 42 Tri-umphed 43 A little pointer? 48 Mimic 49 Russian river 50 Killer whale 51 Third degree? 52 Tardy 53 Spud's buds

3 Rep.'s counter-part 4 At a slow tempo 5 Snapshots 6 Mine entrance 7 Tiny 8 NYC's Verrazano-Bridge 9 Vodka brand or Sibelius work 10 Tom Joad, e.g. 11 Energizes with "up" 16 Kibosh

20 Spoon-bender Geller 21 Performs 22 Level 23 Tweaked 24 Heart 26 Drench 27 Embrace 28 No stay-at-home 29 Transmit 31 Worrisome 34 Historic time 35 Fifth president 37 Weeding tool 38 Trade 39 19th Hebrew letter 40 Summer-time pest 41 Look lasciviously 44 Playwright Levin 45 Take a whack at 46 Lemieux milieu 47 — de deux

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-7

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michelle Kwan, 29; Cree Summer, 40; Shelley Duvall, 60; Ringo Starr, 69

Happy Birthday: A serious look at life and what it has to offer will be required. Don't let anyone limit you or cause you to miss out on something that can make a difference to your future. Diplomacy coupled with positive suggestions will help you get others to let you do your own thing. Don't be afraid to go it alone, if necessary. Your numbers are 2, 10, 17, 26, 30, 36, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Criticism can be constructive but don't let it stop you from finishing what you start. Don't just listen to what's being said, offer your input and ask questions if there are things you don't agree with or understand. With a clear picture of what's required, you can get on with more enjoyable pastimes. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Travel for business or pleasure will bring remarkable revelations regarding your current position and partnerships. The possibilities are endless. Communication will clear up any doubts and enable you to move forward. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take stock of what needs to be cleared up through dealings with banks, government agencies, schools, hospitals or the courts. The more precise and serious you are about what you want, the better the outcome. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't reveal the way you feel or you may be forced to talk about something you aren't ready to

discuss. The responsibilities you have taken on will prepare you for something bigger and better, so stop viewing your situation negatively. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You probably have as much knowledge and more finesse as anyone putting demands on you. Surround yourself with positive, upbeat doers who can and will contribute to your plans. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A friendship with someone very different from yourself will help you see situations from many angles. An opportunity is available that you must take advantage of before someone else does. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Get your priorities straight. You cannot let your heart rule your head. Once you have made a commitment, stick to it or you will give the impression that you are not reliable. Don't renege on your promises or your plans. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't waffle or someone will take advantage of your vulnerability. Don't let someone else's jealousy cause you to doubt your ability. Avoid any complications by doing the work required on your own. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be tempted to overspend when it's not necessary. Not finishing what you start or making accusations about what you can and cannot do will lead to criticism. A change in a personal relationship will catch you by surprise. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There is a time and place for everything and, once in a while, you have to take a break

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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for the sake of yourself and those who love you. An interesting look at your personal situation will make you realize what you have and what you can strive to acquire. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your knowledge and fabulous way of analyzing situations will grab someone's interest. The more you share with someone you like, the stronger your bond with the person will become. Love is on the rise. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You have to think of others if you want recognition, support and help. Approach people carefully and feel out their situation before making assumptions regarding what can be offered. Take any relationship seriously and honor what is expected of you in return. ****

Birthday Baby: You have a strong sense of justice. You are determined to bring about reform and change. You go above and beyond what's expected.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

9 2 1 4

2 8 5

6 9

3 8 7 5

8 1

7 4 5 2

5 8

1 3 9

8 9 4 2

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/07

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3 7 2 6 1 5 8 9 4

1 5 9 8 4 7 6 2 3

6 4 8 2 3 9 5 7 1

2 3 5 1 6 8 7 4 9

8 9 1 3 7 4 2 6 5

7 6 4 5 9 2 3 1 8

5 8 7 9 2 1 4 3 6

4 1 6 7 5 3 9 8 2

9 2 3 4 8 6 1 5 7

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

INVESTING IN PLATINUM Solution: 4 letters

V C S F S K C O T S D E N I M

H O L D I N G S U N S S O L S

S I L V E R B O N D S A A T

S N I A S C M M S P C C L T N

S S B R T E A A E M I E L E U

N E A U R I V F U T U R E M O

O B G L D E L R U S A S S L C

I L S A G I Y E E N E R E D C

S A K U N R C I R S D V X E A

S C R C L A L D A R E S H D C

I I O E M P M E R L U R A A C

M M W R P O S M I U M S U R E

E E A U T O C A T A L Y S T S

J H S L A I C N A N I F T I S

P C E X P E N D I T U R E S A

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Access, Accounts, Autocatalysts, Bars, Bills, Bonds, Chemical, Coins, Cost, Demand, Diamond, Emissions, Exhaust, Expenditures, Financial, Firm, Funds, Future, Glass, Holdings, Income, Jewelry, Level, Loss, Manage, Metal, Mined, Osmium, Ounce, Pharmaceutical, Plus, Rare, Rate, Reserves, Russia, Save, Sell, Silver, Stocks, Sums, Supplies, Traded, Volatile, Work

Yesterday's Answer: Shopping

WONDERWORD offers the "Book of Celebrities," for \$5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus \$3 postage for the first book order, \$1 p&h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS



FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 2-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WANTED TO LEASE

Looking for 2 or 3-Bedroom house with garage for long-term lease. Please call SK Community at 285-1654.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT Solution: Make a song and dance about it

CECILIA PATRICIA T. CAMACHO
P.O. BOX 500813
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TELEPHONE (670) 235-3627

PRO SE,

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Appointment of a Legal Guardian for:) **FCD GU**
MARCELINO JAMES) **Civil Action**
BEYEU CAMACHO,) **No. 09-0394**
A Minor Child,)
by:)
CECILIA PATRICIA T.)
CAMACHO,)
Petitioner,)

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF A LEGAL GUARDIAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Court shall hear the above-entitled matter on the 20th day of July, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. for Petitioner's Notice of Hearing on Petition for Appointment of a Legal Guardian. The parties are directed to be present at the hearing at which time the Court shall consider the Petition.

/s/ Clerk of Court
CNMI SUPERIOR COURT

Juan M. Santos
P.O. Box 506198
Saipan, MP 96950

Telephone No.: 235-5826/483-0040

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of) **FCD AD**
The Adoption Of:) **CIVIL**
) **ACTION**
Elvie Lynn Cepeda) **NO. 09-0383**
Masga, Elorina Rosita)
Cepeda Masga, and) **NOTICE**
Elana Maria Cepeda) **OF**
Masga) **HEARING**
Minor Children)
By:)
JUAN M. SANTOS)
Petitioner)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on August 6, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 2nd day of July, 2009.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Dandan Tire Shop

USED TIRE

JOETEN DANDAN

235-7835

INVESTMENT PROPOSALS

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WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

COMPOSE it CHOREOGRAPH

Find today's solution in this section



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235-NEWS

Woods wins own event for first time

BETHESDA, Md. (AP)—Tiger Woods was on the back nine at Congressional, trying to win his own tournament for the first time. His main competition was relaxing in the clubhouse, having a bite to eat and joking with Woods' wife and daughter.

This wasn't a typical Sunday showdown. After all, there was no way Woods could intimidate a player who finished more than an hour earlier with a round that tied the course record. All he could do was try to find a way to make one birdie somewhere between hole No. 12 and the end of the round.

Woods got what he needed at the par-5 16th, sinking a 20-foot putt that proved to be enough to beat Hunter Mahan by one stroke at the AT&T National.

"Six holes to go, and at the time I was tied for the lead," Woods said. "It was just like, 'You can go either way. You can win the tournament or you can lose the tournament from here.' Just got to keep plodding along and hopefully maybe sneak one or two birdies coming in and get the title."

As the tournament host, Woods then got to present the Capitol dome replica trophy to himself and interview himself on the 18th green—"So Tiger, how did you play today?" he said as thousands of fans laughed—and complete an unusual trifecta of winning all three PGA Tour player-hosted events in the same year, having taken the Arnold Palmer Invitational in March and Jack Nick-

laus' Memorial last month.

"It was great shaking my hand today," said Woods, whose closing round of 67 gave him a 13-under 267 total.

The large Fourth of July weekend crowd arrived Sunday expecting a traditional mano-a-mano battle between Woods and defending champion Anthony Kim. They started the day tied for first and thus shared the final pairing, but Kim fell behind on the front nine and never seemed poised to make a run. He shot 71 to finish third.

"I had a lot of fun," said Kim, paired with Woods for the first time. "I know I'll be knocking on the door again. It's only a matter of time. I learned if you have a birdie putt, you better make it."

Instead, it was Mahan who was shaking up the leaderboard, his 62 tying the Congressional record that Kim had set Thursday. When he was done, Mahan went to the family dining area to wait alongside Woods' wife, Elin, and 2-year-old daughter Sam, watching Woods' pursuit of the needed birdie.

"When he missed on 14, I yelled 'Yes!' in a joking manner," Mahan said. "It wasn't like I was rooting against him, but it was just funny because you usually don't see him miss putts."

Besides, Mahan knew Woods would probably have the last laugh.

"He knows how to play this game better than anybody," Mahan said. "I thought he would get to probably 13 (under) or 14 actually, maybe even 15."



Tiger Woods poses with the trophy after winning the AT&T National golf tournament at Congressional Country Club, Sunday, July 5, 2009, in Bethesda, Md. AP

When Woods got to the 16th hole, Mahan headed to the range to warm up in case there would be a playoff. When he heard a roar a half-mile away, his caddie checked his phone and saw that Woods had made birdie.

Mahan finished hitting balls and was headed to the putting green when a young girl approached him for an autograph. He might not have noticed the words on the back of her white T-shirt: "Tiger's Back."

Indeed, it was true. Woods, who missed his tournament last year with a knee injury, finished with routine pars at the 17th and 18th for the win.

Bryce Molder closed with a 68 to finish alone in fourth, putting him atop a special money list that puts him and Paul Goydos into the British Open.

Brandt Snedeker, finally healthy after a rib injury, had a 68-67 weekend and tied for fifth with U.S. Open champion Lucas Glover. Snedeker also earned a spot at Turnberry as the leading player among the top five not already eligible for the British Open.

For Woods, the accolades seem endless. He won for the 68th time on the PGA Tour and the third time this year, moving him to the top of the overall money list and the FedEx Cup standings.

All three of his victories have come in his final start before a major. Woods wasn't able to keep his winning form at either the Masters or the U.S. Open, finishing four shots behind in both tournaments. His next stop: the British Open in two weeks.

"Hopefully," Woods said, "I can play like I did this week."

Lance Armstrong battles heat in Tour 2nd stage



BRIGNOLES, France (AP)—

Lance Armstrong could not tell right away how much weight he lost in a stifling and humid second stage of the Tour de France, marred by crashes and won by Mark Cavendish.

The seven-time Tour champion, who is 10th in the overall standings and 40 seconds behind race leader Fabian Cancellara, spent the day without taking any risks.

Asked how Sunday's stage went, Armstrong said: "Hot."

The American, who entered the race at 160 pounds—lighter than he was during his dominant spell at the Tour—said he will watch his weight carefully.

Riders need to keep their weight down, but being too light can suggest they are dehydrated.

"These days, that are hot like this, you should really check (your weight) before and after" the stage, Armstrong told reporters near his Astana team bus.

"It's hard to hydrate. But you know, it's hot for everybody."

Armstrong finished 80th in the stage. He trails his rival and teammate Alberto Contador by 22 seconds and even if the Spaniard is the clear favorite to win the race, the American still has a chance. The two men were very cautious Sunday in a stage made for sprinters.

"Just avoid trouble and get in the rhythm of the race," Armstrong said, summing up his journey in the Mediterranean hinterland. "You know, yesterday (time trial) was not really a normal stage."

In the overall standings, Cancellara, who finished 38th, leads Contador by 18 seconds. Bradley Wiggins of Britain is third, 19 seconds back.

Armstrong said he had recovered from his time trial and mentioned the lack of competition before the Tour to explain his 10th-place finish in Monaco.

"I think that was maybe my biggest issue yesterday, was the break from the Giro to here without races, so to speak," Armstrong said. "It's hard to

throw yourself back into competition."

After finishing 12th in the Giro d'Italia in May, Armstrong spent most of his time training in Colorado and also won the Nevada City Classic in California last month.

"If you do the Dauphine (Libere) and (the Tour of) Switzerland, it's probably better training for an opening time trial like that," said Armstrong, referring to two stage races in June. "Anyway, I think the Giro helps in the final week here."

Besides Armstrong, many riders muttered about the hot conditions.

"The heat was like you were baking bread ... it was terrible," Cancellara said, adding that temperatures had hit 104 degrees. "I haven't seen heat like that in years."

Contador, who finished 58th on Sunday, said: "I think that I drank at least five liters during the stage."

Cavendish won his fifth stage on the Tour following excellent work by his teammates, who set him up perfectly. After catching

a group of four breakaway riders about 6.8 miles from the finish, the teams with strong sprinters moved to the head of the peloton, and Cavendish's Columbia team was the strongest.

"It was dangerous at the finish. It was quite hard to stay in position," Cavendish said after clocking 4 hours, 30 minutes and 2 seconds—the same time as all but two of the riders.

"There were guys fighting to stay up front," he said. "As soon as my team picked up to line the peloton out, it made things a little less hectic."

After a crash on the final turn, Cavendish started his sprint about 380 yards from the finish and held off a late challenge by American Tyler Farrar, who finished second, and Romain Feillu of France in third.

"It's impressive work from my team," said Cavendish, who won four stages in last year's Tour.

"When George goes, he just strings the peloton out and it frees things up a little," he said, referring to his teammate, U.S. veteran George Hincapie. "We had some of the best guys in the

world riding hard and keeping the pace hard for the last 5 kilometers."

This is Cavendish's third Tour, but he has never finished. He said his goal was to win a stage and complete the three-week race.

"The green jersey has been a big target for me," he said. "I'm wearing it now and well, OK, I've been a pro for three years, but this is all I've wanted since turning pro. For sure I want to keep it; I've made a good debut at the Tour and I want to hold onto the jersey. It was a hard, hot day today and hopefully it won't get too much hotter."

Twelve riders including Frank Schleck of Luxembourg were involved in crashes and Belgium's Jurgen Van de Walle suffered numerous bruises on his shoulder, knee and torso. It was not clear whether he would take the start Monday.

Riders will face a similar trek for Monday's third stage, a 122.1-mile course from the Mediterranean port city of Marseille to La Grande Motte.

The Tour ends July 26 in Paris.

Reports: Wallace agrees to deal with Celtics



Two newspapers are reporting the Celtics have reached an agreement with free agent Rasheed Wallace.

Bill Strickland, Wallace's agent, told the *Boston Herald* and the *Boston Globe* on Sunday night that the 34-year-old forward told him to call off meetings the agent was in the process of scheduling with the Orlando Magic, San Antonio Spurs and Dallas Mavericks.

Wallace played the last six seasons with the Detroit Pistons, where he won an NBA championship in 2004. He heads to a Celtics team loaded with veterans such as Kevin Garnett, Ray Allen and Paul Pierce, and hoping to make at least one more title run.

Wallace has averaged 15 points and 6.9 rebounds in 14 NBA seasons. He averaged 12 points and 7.4 rebounds last season. (AP)

Phillies beat Mets for a 3-game sweep



PHILA-
DEL-
PHIA
(AP) —

Jimmy Rollins and Chase Utley homered off Johan Santana to lead the Philadelphia Phillies to a 2-0 victory over the New York Mets on Sunday to complete a three-game sweep of their NL East rival.

The Phillies had lost 12 of 15 and returned home after being swept by the Atlanta Braves, but took advantage of the injury-ravaged Mets to earn their first sweep at home since taking three straight from the Nationals in late May.

Dodgers 7, Padres 6, 13 innings.

At San Diego, James Loney led off the 13th inning with a homer off Edward Mujica (2-4) to give the Dodgers an away win.

Manny Ramirez didn't start for the first time since he returned from a 50-game drug suspension on Friday. Manager Joe Torre said he wanted Ramirez to rest his legs after being out so long.

Astros 7, Giants 1

At San Francisco, Roy Oswalt pitched eight solid innings in the Astros' victory over the Giants.

Miguel Tejada, Hunter Pence and Jason Michaels each hit solo home runs for the Astros, who had been shut out in their previous two games against the Giants.

Diamondbacks 4, Rockies 3

At Denver, Mark Reynolds hit a three-run homer and Felipe Lopez broke a tie game with an RBI single in the seventh, giving the Diamondbacks their first series win since mid June at Kansas City.

Nationals 5, Braves 3

At Washington, Scott Olsen pitched into the ninth inning, newly acquired Nyjer Morgan had three hits and the Nationals beat the Braves for their second straight victory.

Olsen allowed three runs and eight hits over 8 2-3 innings, prevailing for the first time since returning June 28 from the 15-day disabled list after a bout with left shoulder tendinitis. He walked five and struck out five.

Cardinals 10, Reds 1

At Cincinnati, Colby Rasmus' homer started St. Louis' eight-run onslaught against slumping right-hander Bronson Arroyo, and the Cardinals got another solid start from Chris Carpenter.

Rasmus hit a two-run homer in the first off Arroyo, who is 1-5 in his last seven starts. A throwing error by third baseman Edwin Encarnacion let in a pair of runs in the fifth inning, helping the Cardinals pull ahead 8-0 with Arroyo on the mound.



Philadelphia Phillies' Chase Utley, left, and Jimmy Rollins talk as they walk off the field after completing a double play to end the eighth inning of a baseball game with the New York Mets, Sunday, July 5, 2009, in Philadelphia.

Cards' Pujols leads All-Star voting

NEW YORK (AP)—Albert Pujols will be in a familiar spot when St. Louis hosts the 80th All-Star game. Boston knuckleballer Tim Wakefield is headed for a brand new situation.

Pujols was the leading vote-getter in balloting for the Midsummer Classic announced Sunday by Major League Baseball, giving the Cardinals' first baseman the start in his home ballpark.

"It feels great to be there and represent the organization and the city you play in," Pujols said.

The National League MVP is well on his way to another amazing year, leading the majors with 31 homers and 82 RBIs. He collected 5,397,374 votes to finish with

the second-highest total in major league history, trailing only Ken Griffey Jr.'s six million votes in 1994.

"I think that's just a recognition around the country that he's had a phenomenal first half on top of a phenomenal career," St. Louis manager Tony La Russa said. "I'm sure our fans supported him, but he's been incredible and it's well-deserved."

Wakefield made his first All-Star roster in his 17th season, one of a major league-high six Red Sox headed to Busch Stadium for the July 14 game. The 42-year-old right-hander is tied for the big league lead with 10 wins.

Wakefield got a standing ovation when Boston's All-Stars

were announced at Fenway Park, and acknowledged the cheering crowd with a wave.

"I have a lot of emotions running through right now," he said after Boston's 8-4 victory over Seattle. "It's a pretty proud moment for me and my family."

Teammate Dustin Pedroia, the reigning American League MVP, passed Texas' Ian Kinsler in a close vote at second base and left fielder Jason Bay also won a spot in the lineup.

While Pedroia rallied to get the start, Red Sox first baseman Kevin Youkilis was caught by Yankees slugger Mark Teixeira in the final voting. Youkilis made the team, anyway, along with Boston ace Josh Beckett and closer Jonathan Papelbon.

The injury-riddled Mets lead the NL with four selections. Center fielder Carlos Beltran and third baseman David Wright were elected by the fans, but Beltran has been out with a bruised right knee and likely won't play.

New York ace Johan Santana and closer Francisco Rodriguez were selected by the players.

Starting for the NL: Pujols at first, Philadelphia second baseman Chase Utley, Florida shortstop Hanley Ramirez, Wright at third, Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina and Beltran, Milwaukee's Ryan Braun and Philadelphia's Raul Ibanez in the outfield. Ibanez has been sidelined by a groin injury and could sit out.

Red Sox 8, Mariners 4

At Boston, David Ortiz had a tying RBI single and Mark Kot-say added a key two-run hit during a five-run seventh inning, allowing the Red Sox to avoid a three-game sweep.

All-Star Dustin Pedroia homered among his three hits for the Red Sox, who have not been swept at home this season. Ortiz and Jacoby Ellsbury also each hit solo homers.

Royals 6, White Sox 3

At Kansas City, Alberto Callaspo got his fourth RBI in two days and Miguel Olivo hit a two-run homer to help the Royals earn a split of their four-game series with Chicago.

Callaspo, who had three RBIs in a 6-4 win on Saturday, also cost KC a run with the kind of shaky defense which has led to his collecting 10 errors at second base this year.

Twins 6, Tigers 2

At Minneapolis, Justin Morneau punctuated a productive series—and celebrated another All-Star game selection—with a two-run homer for the Twins.

Nick Blackburn (7-4) took a shutout into the ninth inning before left fielder Denard Span dropped a line drive for an error and Brandon Inge followed with a two-run home run.

Athletics 5, Indians 2

At Cleveland, Gio Gonzalez pitched six strong innings for his first win of the season for Oakland.

Prior to the game, Indians general manager Mark Shapiro said manager Eric Wedge will keep his job for the rest of the season, even though Cleveland has the worst record in the AL. Despite the news, the Indians lost for the 14th time in 18 games.

Angels 9, Orioles 6

At Anaheim, California, Vladimir Guerrero hit a tying two-run homer in his first game back in right field, and the Angels took advantage of a wild Baltimore bullpen to rally for a win.

Guerrero, who played in the outfield for the first time this season after missing 35 games with a torn pectoral muscle, hit home runs in back-to-back games for the first time in almost a year.

Rangers, 5, Rays 2

At Arlington, Texas, Scott Feldman allowed three hits in six innings, and David Murphy had three hits and an RBI as the Texas Rangers completed a three-game sweep of the Tampa Bay Rays.

Feldman gave up two runs, struck out two and walked four to help the Rangers win their fifth straight and finish a 6-3 homestand.

their fourth consecutive series at home.

Cubs 8, Brewers 2

At Chicago, Derrek Lee hit a two-run homer to lead the Cubs to victory.

Jake Fox also had a two-run home run for the Cubs, who took three of four from the Brewers. The Cubs moved 1

1/2 games back of the Brewers in the NL Central Division for second place and trail the first-place St. Louis Cardinals by 2 1/2 games in the division.

Yankees 10, Blue Jays 8

At New York, Derek Jeter had four hits including the a go-ahead two-run homer and Hide-

ki Matsui homered and drove in four runs as the New York Yankees rallied from a four-run hole to beat the Toronto Blue Jays.

It was New York's fifth straight win over the Blue Jays, whose five-run fourth inning gave them an 8-4 lead that never appeared safe on a day in which balls were again flying out of Yankee Stadium.

Hustlers, D’Pirates hoist 8-Ball trophies

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Saipan Billiards Association recognized the Top 3 finishers in the Agingan and Obyan divisions of the 2009 SBA-Budweiser Open 8-Ball League in an awards banquet yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club’s Charley’s Cabaret.

Leading the Top 3 awardees were the Docomo Hustlers and D’Pirates Huwa, who topped the Agingan and Obyan divisions, respectively.

The Hustlers finished the 2009 season of the league with a 59-25 record to beat rival IT&E Voyagers (56-28) and take the championship they lost to the

latter last season.

The Docomo Pacific and Utopia Sports Bar-backed Hustlers are composed of Jerry Soriano, Senen Pangilinan, Rowell Mariano, Robert Sanciango, Joey Lucido, Erwin Gomez, Jomer Enriquez, and John Ricafort.

Pangilinan was named MVP of the Agingan division, while teammates Soriano and Sanciango prevailed in the 8-on-the-break and run the rack categories, respectively.

Each member of the Hustlers and their sponsor received a championship trophy.

The Voyagers/Snicker ‘N Tuna’s Rolly Villanueva, R.J. Mascarinas, Luis Fajardo, Ryan Odicta, Jojo Talibong, Amor Zapata, Roman Rodriguez, Jean Cadag, Cecile Vivero, Rey Pinangay, and Zaldy Quebral

also each went home with a runner-up trophy.

Completing the Top 3 in the Agingan division were the Utopia Mix Acers, who are composed of Primo Ferrera, Clifford and Chester Hamoy, Mario Jumalon, Chester Cuanto, Mark Butac, and Rommel Usi.

Four other teams competed in the Agingan division, namely the Billy Bones Home Boys, Snicker 8-Ball Knights, Wild Wild West, and Billy Bones Bad Boys.

D’Pirates Huwa topped the eight-team Obyan division after posting a 63-28 record.

The champion team is composed of Ray Takai, Ray Basa, Gerold Guerrero, Jess Pangelinan, Parker Yobai, Simeon Kapileo.

Finishing second in the Obyan division with a 53-38 slate was

USSP Fatton Palau, which had Taylor Watanabe, Rick and Mei Rengiil, John Mongami, Ron Chisato, Stanley Villagomez, and Annie Tesiro as members.

Bwbwiiis Shark Attack settled for third place with its 50-41 record. The members of the team are Bill Limes, Vince Mareham, Ben Norita, Jerry Ayuyu, Jerry Zapanta, Dan Eugenio, Rose Reguine, and MVP Patrick Taitano

The five other teams that joined the competition in the Obyan division were Sportsmanship Award recipient D’Pirates 8-Ballers, Perfect Spotters, USSP Wat-Ever, VFW Warriors, and Bwbwiiis Da Snipers.

D’Pirates Huwa also won the Budweiser Cup in the Obyan division, while the Voyagers prevailed in the Agingan division.

FEDERER

From Page 28

stay injury-free,” said Federer, who won his first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon in 2003. “I’m happy I broke the record here because this is always the tournament that meant the most to me. It definitely feels like coming full circle, starting it here and ending it here.”

Sampras flew in from California on Sunday, making his first appearance at the All England Club since playing this tournament for the last time in 2002. He arrived in the Royal Box after the third game of the match. Accompanied by his wife, Bridgette Wilson, he sat next to Spanish great Manolo Santana and a few seats from Rod Laver and Bjorn Borg. When Federer

walked from his changeover chair to the service line, he gestured to Sampras in greeting.

“In a way, I still feel like we share (the record) because he was such a wonderful champion,” Federer said. “He still has one up against me here at Wimbledon. It’s nice that he shows appreciation for what I’m doing.”

Federer is the third player to win six Wimbledon championships—Sampras and William Renshaw each won seven.

“He’s a stud,” Sampras said. “He’s only 27. He’ll contend here for many years, and the U.S. Open, and all the majors. If he just keeps it going and stays healthy, he could go to 18, 19, potentially. The guy, he’s a legend. Now he’s an icon.”

It’s been quite a turnaround for Federer from a year ago, when he lost his title and aura of

invincibility to Rafael Nadal in a classic final that ended in near darkness at 9-7 in the fifth set.

With Sunday’s triumph, Federer reclaimed the No. 1 ranking he surrendered last August to Nadal, who missed this year’s tournament because of knee problems.

“Of course, I would have loved to play him again,” Federer said. “You never know how he would have played. He had the injury. Tennis moves very quickly. I’m happy at least I became No. 1 in the world by winning the tournament, not just by him not playing at all. It’s supposed to be that you win big matches, big tournaments. That’s how you get back to (No. 1).”

Some people were writing off Federer after he lost to Nadal in the Australian Open final and broke down in tears during the trophy ceremony. Federer contin-

ued to struggle early in the season before winning the French Open. Now he’s the third man in 40 years to win the French and Wimbledon in the same year, joining Borg and Nadal.

“This year is crazy,” Federer said. “Things didn’t look so good when I lost in the final of the Australian Open, which was still just an unbelievable result. But to come through and battle back and win Paris and now Wimbledon back-to-back, something Bjorn did a couple of times, it’s amazing.”

Playing in his record 20th Grand Slam final and sixth in a row, Federer beat Roddick for the third time in the Wimbledon championship match, adding to his victories in 2004 and ‘05. He extended his overall mastery over the American to 19-2, including 8-0 at Grand Slams.

FOUR

From Page 28

the front and back nines.

Ben Duenas and Carl Hocog complete the team with two round totals of 168 and 174, respectively.

Duenas registered an 81 last June 27 and an 87 last July 5, while Hocog came away with identical 87s in the first and

second qualifiers.

Asterio Tawanpiy and Yasu Hirinaka actually finished with lower scores than the two but were not eligible to represent the CNMI in the Pacific Games. Tawanpiy fired a score of 165 (77-88) while Hiranaka totaled 169 (84-85).

Joe Demapan will serve as an alternate if one of the four, for whatever reason, is not able to represent the CNMI in the

Mini Games.

Demapan finished the qualifier with a 182 after shooting identical 91s at the Agingan Point and Marpi golf venues.

Kossam said RGA will be planning a fundraising golf tournament in the near future to help alleviate travel cost to Cook Islands.

He said Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association had promised to shoulder a portion of the travel and per diem cost of the

team to Rarotonga. The 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Cook Islands will run from Sept. 21 to Oct. 2.

Veteran golfer Jeff Taylor served as the tryout official as the DFS Galleria Saipan employee opted to sit out the Mini Games. Aside from the four players, a coach will also be traveling with the team to Cook Islands.

For more information regarding the CNMI national golf team, contact Kossam at 483-4506.

KABIRIEL

From Page 28

in Gold, Coast, Australia last Sunday and bested his time in his first 21-kilometer run of the year.

Kabiriel completed the half marathon Down Under also dubbed as the 2009 Oceania Half Marathon Championships in one hour, 29 minutes and 16 seconds (gun time). His net time is 1:29:16.

Gun time is the time between when the gun went off and when you crossed the finish line.

Net time is the time between when you crossed the start line to when you crossed the finish line.

Both times are better than the 1:30:00 Kabiriel posted during

the 21.079-kilometer Saipan half marathon he won in January this year.

Kabiriel finished 69th among the 674 finishers entered in the men’s 35 to 39 age group. The 34-year-old CNMI runner placed No. 382 among the 6,949 half marathon finishers and was No. 362 among the 3,766 male finishers.

Tanzanian runner Dickson Marwa won the men’s division race with a blistering time of 1:02:09. He defeated Michael Shelley in a down-to-the-wire finish, as the latter submitted a gun time of 1:02:10. Martin Dent placed third, recording 1:02:16. Olympian Lisa Jane Weightman, also of Australia, topped the women’s division with a time of 1:10:42. Completing the

Top 3 in the women’s division were 2008 winner Cassie Fien (1:12:24) and Shireen Crumpton (1:14:05).

The first three finishers (in both open men and women) from the Oceania region were presented with the Oceania Championship medals. Another set of medals were also set to be given to the Top 3 Pacific Island finishers in both the marathon and half marathon events, but results were unavailable at press time.

The race started and ended near the coastline of Broadbeach and took participants to Labrador, Runway Bay, and to the road near Paradise Point, which is one of the beaches along many of Gold Coast’s 860-km of navigable tidal waterway.

Kabiriel, who is known here as

the “Road Runner Bunny,” was the first CNMI runner to compete in the prestigious event.

He earned the right to represent the Commonwealth to the Gold Coast competition after winning the 2009 CNMI Half Marathon Championship, which was a qualifier for the Oceania tournament.

Kabiriel completed the qualifying race in 1:31:42 to beat 17 other male participants, including runner-up Bae Jim Keum (1:34:26) third placer Ronald Villafria (1:37:16).

The CNMI did not send a female runner in Gold Coast, but in a previous interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Northern Marianas Athletics president Kurt Barnes said they are hoping to field one next year.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	49	32	.605	—
New York	48	33	.593	1
Tampa Bay	44	39	.530	6
Toronto	42	41	.506	8
Baltimore	36	46	.439	13 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	44	37	.543	—
Minnesota	43	40	.518	2
Chicago	42	40	.512	2 1/2
Kansas City	35	46	.432	9
Cleveland	33	50	.398	12

West Division

Los Angeles	45	35	.563	—
Texas	45	35	.563	—
Seattle	42	39	.519	3 1/2
Oakland	34	46	.425	11

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	42	37	.532	—
Florida	43	40	.518	1
Atlanta	39	42	.481	4
New York	39	42	.481	4
Washington	24	55	.304	18

Central Division

St. Louis	45	39	.536	—
Milwaukee	43	39	.524	1
Chicago	40	39	.506	2 1/2
Cincinnati	40	40	.500	3
Houston	39	41	.488	4
Pittsburgh	37	45	.451	7

West Division

Los Angeles	52	30	.634	—
San Francisco	44	37	.543	7 1/2
Colorado	42	39	.519	9 1/2
San Diego	35	46	.432	16 1/2
Arizona	33	49	.402	19

Yesterday’s Games

Florida 5, Pittsburgh 0
St. Louis 10, Cincinnati 1
Washington 5, Atlanta 3
Philadelphia 2, N.Y. Mets 0
Chicago Cubs 8, Milwaukee 2
Arizona 4, Colorado 3
Houston 7, San Francisco 1
L.A. Dodgers 7, San Diego 6, 13 innings
Oakland 5, Cleveland 2
N.Y. Yankees 10, Toronto 8
Boston 8, Seattle 4
Kansas City 6, Chicago White Sox 3
Minnesota 6, Detroit 2
L.A. Angels 9, Baltimore 6
Texas 5, Tampa Bay 2

AT&T NATIONAL SCORES

BETHESDA, Maryland (AP) — Scores Sunday after the final round of the \$6 million AT&T National at the 7,255-yard, par 70 Congressional Country Club course:

FINAL ROUND

Tiger Woods	64-66-70-67—267
Hunter Mahan	69-69-68-62—268

Anthony Kim	62-70-68-71—271
Bryce Molder	64-70-70-68—272
Brandt Snedeker	68-70-68-67—273
Lucas Glover	69-66-68-70—273
Vijay Singh	70-68-70-66—274
Danny Lee	68-67-69-70—274
Jim Furyk	66-67-69-72—274
Cameron Beckman	68-67-66-73—274
Kevin Strelman	70-67-71-67—275
Fred Couples	72-67-68-68—275
Matt Bettencourt	70-71-66-68—275
Ryan Moore	69-66-69-71—275
Michael Allen	67-69-65-74—275
Justin Rose	67-71-69-69—276
Davis Love III	69-67-70-70—276
Stuart Appleby	66-69-70-71—276
Cliff Kresge	70-67-67-72—276
Daniel Chopra	66-68-72-71—277
Rod Pampling	67-64-71-75—277
Y.E. Yang	67-71-70-70—278
Ryan Palmer	69-67-71-71—278
Ryuji Imada	69-69-66-74—278
Nick O’Hern	71-70-71-67—279
Steve Elkington	65-73-71-70—279
Aaron Baddeley	72-68-69-70—279
Marc Leishman	70-71-67-71—279
Robert Garrigus	70-68-69-72—279
Mark Wilson	70-67-70-72—279
Charles Warren	73-67-69-71—280
Tim Petrovic	68-71-69-72—280
D.A. Points	64-70-72-74—280
George McNeill	70-66-69-75—280
Joe Ogilvie	69-72-73-67—281
Nicholas Thompson	71-70-72-68—281
Webb Simpson	74-67-72-68—281
Scott McCarron	72-65-73-71—281
Sean O’Hair	69-72-68-72—281
Steve Flesch	69-72-71-70—282
Dean Wilson	69-69-72-72—282
James Nitties	71-67-70-74—282
Steve Marino	73-65-68-76—282
Chris DiMarco	70-72-74-67—283
John Senden	71-70-72-70—283
J.J. Henry	76-66-69-72—283
Jason Bohn	72-70-67-74—283
Mike Weir	71-71-72-70—284
Jason Dufner	72-69-71-72—284
Chez Reavie	70-71-70-73—284
Ted Purdy	73-66-69-76—284
Charley Hoffman	71-69-68-76—284
Boo Weekley	67-69-69-79—284
David Mathis	71-71-74-69—285
Harrison Frazar	69-70-74-72—285
Jeff Quinney	69-73-71-72—285
Peter Lonard	70-70-72-73—285
Bo Van Pelt	69-72-71-73—285
Rocco Mediate	70-69-72-74—285
Nathan Green	71-71-66-77—285
Michael Letzig	68-74-74-71—287
Paul Goydos	73-68-74-72—287
Bill Lunde	70-68-71-78—287
Marc Turnesa	71-69-80-68—288
Chris Stensrud	74-67-75-72—288
Troy Matteson	69-71-77-72—289
Ricky Barnes	70-72-75-72—289
Nick Watney	70-72-72-75—289
Notah Begay III	70-72-72-75—289
Kevin Stadler	69-73-75-73—290
Matt Hill	71-69-75-75—290
Bart Bryant	68-72-73-77—290
Jeff Maggert	72-70-77-72—291
Martin Laird	70-71-76-74—291
Brian Davis	70-72-74-75—291
James Driscoll	70-70-80-72—292

By The Associated Press

CNMI

From Page 28

of the fourth inning, Hong Kong threatened to tie the game in the fifth inning. After Rogolifoi grounded out a Hong Kong batter for the second out, his throw towards the second base sailed past to leftfield, allowing a Hong Kong runner to proceed to home plate.

However, Uchau retrieved the loose ball and threw to catcher Lieto to still complete the double play and keep the CNMI in the lead.

The host then tried again to force a deadlock at the top of the sixth inning. Harikawa Hiroshi stepped up to the plate with two outs and bases were loaded, and after a full count hit the ball. Guerrero then picked up the grounder and threw to Rogolifoi to preserve the lead and the win for the CNMI youth sluggers.

Guerrero came in for starting pitcher Jose Lizama Jr., who pitched five innings, gave up only four hits, struck out nine and walked two.

The CNMI’s next game will

be against the Philippines today at 10am (12pm Saipan time). Tomorrow, the Commonwealth’s bets will duel the defending champion Guam and will complete their pool game on Thursday against Indonesia.

The CNMI Major All-Stars are hoping to top the tournament and make their second appearance in the World Series.

The first time that a CNMI team played in the Majors division of the World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania was in 2006.

Since the inception of the tournament in 2001, Guam had made it to the World Series five times (2001 to 2003, 2005 and 2008), while Chinese-Taipei had competed there twice (2004 and 2007).

Elmer Sablan is the manager of this year’s CNMI Major All-Stars, while Randall Agnon and Peter Tomokane are the coach and assistant coach, respectively. Other members of the team are Alden Ngeskebei, Darion Jones, Jhace Palacios, Jonathan Cabrera, Khobby Kaipat, Kyle Hocog, Nathan Sablan, and Raymond Saralu.

2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Golden Glove awardee (infield) Shane Yamada of the Rangers.



The Rangers' Pete Tomokane won the regular season MVP.



Golden Glove awardee (outfield) Roy Celis holds his specially crafted trophy.



The Tigers' Mike Muna receives the batting champion trophy during the awards ceremony for the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Baseball last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



The Rangers' Benwachi Taisacan flashes the No. 1 sign after claiming the home run king award.



Finals MVP Jesus Iguel of the Rangers poses with SML president Rose Igitol.



Catcher of the Year Pat Alepuyo of the Rangers is joined by SML president Rose Igitol and vice president Bob Coldeen at the awards ceremony.

The umpires of the championship game between the Rangers and D-9ers, Manny Tenorio, left, and James Miwata, enjoy a light moment with Bob Coldeen after the finals.



SML games scorekeeper Joe Lizama, left, poses with game announcer Angel Palacios.



Chel Castro receives the runner-up trophy for the D-9ers.



Hustlers, D'Pirates hoist 8-Ball trophies



the 2009 SBA-Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

Saipan Billiards Association recognized the Top 3 finishers in the Agingan and Obyan divisions of

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Woods wins own event for first time

Tiger Woods was on the back nine at Congressional, trying to win his own tournament for the first time.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Federer makes Grand Slam history

By STEPHEN WILSON
AP SPORTS WRITER

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—From his front row seat in the Royal Box, Pete Sampras watched as Roger Federer broke his record for most Grand Slam singles titles in men's tennis history.



After Federer overcame Andy Roddick in a marathon, five-set serving duel Sunday for his sixth Wimbledon title and 15th Grand Slam championship, Sampras was left with no doubt about who is the greatest male player of all time.

"I have to give it to him," said Sampras, a seven-time Wimbledon champion who never thought his record of 14 major titles would be surpassed so soon. "He's won all the majors. He's won 15 now. He's going to win a few more here. So in my book he is (the greatest)."

The issue will always generate debate and argument, especially in trying to compare players of different gen-



Roger Federer of Switzerland holds the trophy after defeating Andy Roddick of U.S. in their men's final match on the Centre Court at Wimbledon, Sunday, July 5, 2009.

erations, such as Rod Laver and Bill Tilden. But there is no denying that Federer has firmly cemented himself as the finest player of the generation and, at age 27, the favorite for other major titles to come.

"It's not really one of those goals you set as a little boy, but, man, it's been quite a career and quite a month," said Federer, who completed a career Grand Slam by winning his first French Open a month ago. "It feels amazing, but this is not why I'm playing tennis to break all sort of different records. But it's definitely one of the greatest ones to have."

It took 4 hours, 16 minutes, five sets and 77 games for Federer to secure the record Sunday in another epic Wimbledon final. Federer served a career-high 50 aces and overcame the resilient Roddick 5-7, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (5), 3-6, 16-14—the longest match and longest fifth set in Grand Slam final history in terms of games.

After going 0-6 on break points, Federer finally broke the American in the 30th game of the fifth set—with Roddick shanking a forehand on the first match point.

"It's staggering that I've been able to play so well for so many years now and

See **FEDERER** on Page 26

CNMI slips past Hong Kong in debut



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI delegates to the 2009 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament pose for a group photo at Hong Kong Disneyland yesterday before their game against the host.

By ROSELYN B. MONROY
roselyn_monroy@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The CNMI Major All-Stars marked the start of their bid for a World Series ticket with a gritty 2-1 win over Hong Kong in the opening day of the 2009 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament at Hong Kong Disneyland Baseball Field yesterday.

Jeremy Lizama hit an inside-the-park homer for the CNMI Majors, while Ian Rogolifo had an RBI single to lift the Commonwealth team to a win in its first game in the World Series qualifier.

Third baseman Gayvan Uchau, Frankie Lieto, and relief pitcher Keene Guerrero also made defensive stops to beat the host in front of the hometown crowd.

After scoring its first run at the top

See **CNMI** on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROY

Ketson "Jack" Kabriel, seen here checking on his watch during a local race, competed in the 2009 Gold Coast Half Marathon in Gold Coast, Australia last Sunday.

Kabriel improves time in Aussie half marathon

By ROSELYN B. MONROY
roselyn_monroy@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Ketson "Jack" Kabriel raced in his second half marathon competition of the year via the Gold Coast Airport Half Marathon

See **KABRIEL** on Page 26

Four selected to national golf team

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR



The Commonwealth's participation in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Cook Islands is one step closer after the selection of four players to make up the CNMI national golf team.

Following two weekends of try-

outs, Refaluwasch Golf Association president Jordon Kossam announced the nomination of Ralph Yumul, Jess Wabol, Ben Duenas, and Carl Hocog to the national team.

Yumul topped the two rounds of tryouts after submitting a score of 153. He carded a 76 in the first qualifier held last June 27 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort. Yumul then shot a 77 (37-40) in the final qualifier held last July 5 at the Marianas Country Club.



Duenas



Hocog



Wabol



Yumul

Veteran par-buster and many time national golfer Jess Wabol came in second in the tryouts with his 156.

Mr. Unorthodox struggled in the first

qualifier with an 81, but bounced back in the second qualifier with a round leading 75 after a 36-39 performance in

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